

# THE JERUSALEM POST

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## High Court criticizes attorney-general

Page 12

## National unity and the economy

Money Magazine

## 'English Patient' sweeps Oscars

Page 5

### Index

Business	.8
Crossword	.11
Movies/TV	.11
Opinion	.6
Sports	.10
World News	.5

## Fatah plans Land Day 'power' demos

By JON IMMANUEL

Fatah plans a series of marches and "powerful" demonstrations on Sunday's Land Day, which has been designated as "Palestine Day" in the West Bank and Gaza. This is to protest against Israeli government settlement and land expropriation policies, Fatah head Marwan Barghouti said yesterday. Land Day, observed since 1976 when six Israeli Arab villagers were shot by border policemen putting down a protest over expropriated land, has been a less important symbol to West Bank Palestinians. Protests this year may be synchronized, however, under the heading "Settlements are terror."

Yesterday, Fatah and officials of the Palestinian Legislative Council political committee met to coordinate protest plans. They included Barghouti, Hassan Afour (an Oslo negotiator), Ahmed Deik (son-in-law of Abu Jihad), and Nabil Amr, editor of *Hayat al-Jadida*, the newspaper closest to the Palestinian Authority.

Today, the Palestinian Legislative Council is to meet in Ramallah, but as of last night, the IDF refused to allow Gaza members to enter Israel to attend. "There is a closure, so no one leaves Gaza," the IDF spokesman said.

Barghouti said that at a meeting of 500 Fatah activists in Beit Sahur three days ago, "We called on the Palestinian Authority to stop coordination on security matters with Israel until it agrees to change its policies."

The PA, however, is continuing security coordination, although both PA and IDF officials have said that for the past three weeks or more it has been on a lower level of cooperation than before.

At the Beit Sahur meeting of Fatah area committees and the Higher Fatah Council, "about 30 percent" of the participants called for renewing the intifada and "a few voices" called for armed attacks in the West Bank, but the great majority opted for peaceful demonstrations, according to Nafez Rifai, a Bethlehem delegate to the Higher Fatah Council.

The more militant delegates came from among the local activists who led the intifada, while the more moderate elements were from the organized officials of Fatah, including those who came from Tunis and are more closely associated with the PA.

The Higher Council of 41 delegates made one concession to those calling for intifada by including in its final statement a call for a boycott of Israeli goods which could be replaced by local goods.

The definition of peaceful demonstrations apparently includes throwing stones and fire-bombs into the oo-man's hand between IDF and Palestinian Police forces in Bethlehem and Hebron. Palestinian policemen have restrained and pushed back stonethrowers who got close enough to IDF troops to hit them.

"I don't think that stones are violence," Barghouti was quoted as telling the Independent Media Review and Analysis in an interview.



A Palestinian rioter holding a slingshot leaps over a pile of burning tires in Bethlehem yesterday. Story, Page 2. (Bryan McBurney)

## Deputy Minister Peled charges: Arafat knew of World Trade Center plot

By STEVE RODAN

Israeli intelligence has evidence that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat had prior knowledge of the successful 1993 plot to bomb New York City's World Trade Center, which killed six people, Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled said last night.

"More than that, he was part of the discussions on the operation," Peled said. "I call on the prime minister to give the information to the Americans, so they'll know who they're dealing with."

Peled confirmed information relayed by intelligence sources that, several days before the February 26, 1993 bombing, Arafat met with Sudanese and Islamic terrorist leaders who discussed the plot.

The sources said Arafat was privy to the conspiracy, because of his close personal ties to Sudanese leader Hassan Turabi, head of the National Islamic Front. According to a US State Department report on terrorism, Turabi is a leading advocate of closer ties between terrorist groups and their government sponsors. He was also a leading figure in the Fatah-Hamas dialogue in 1995.

Two Sudanese diplomats were arrested and later deported in July of 1993, after US authorities directly linked them to the explosion at the World Trade Center and a plot to bomb the United Nations. Israeli government spokesmen refused to comment on the intelligence reports or on Peled's call for Prime Minister Biyamin Netanyahu to release them to the US. "I don't know anything about it," said David Bar-Ilan, director of communications and policy planning in the Prime Minister's Office.

A Defense Ministry spokesman also refused to comment.

But US and Israeli intelligence sources agree that Arafat continues to maintain a large number of Fatah guerrillas in bases in Sudan, 1,200 of whom arrived from that country in 1994 and now serve in the Palestinian security forces. One Israeli source said the number of Fatah guerrillas in Sudan is close to 3,000.

"Arafat continues to maintain a training base in Sudan and the Fatah people there and work closely with the regime and with Iran," said Yonah Alexander, a Pentagon consultant and director of the terrorism studies program at George Washington University. "If there hadn't been an agreement with Israel, the Fatah would definitely have been on the US list of terror organizations."

Continued on Page 2

## Proposes rise on bill

ould reduce the struggle in nistry over the registry form conversions.

It is a pity to cause a rift in a party over an issue which will not exist in another 12 months," Lubotzky said.

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Minister Moshe Shalev spoke against the bill, saying it would cause a rift in the party. "I am not realistic," he said. "I am not realistic."

Minister Yoram Lior-Hamer said the bill would cause a rift in the party. "I am not realistic," he said. "I am not realistic."

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## Nature lovers ignore Green Line

By DAVID RUDGE

Despite recent tensions between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, a joint Israeli-Palestinian group aimed at preserving nature on both sides of the Green Line has recently been established under the motto "People to people - nature knows no boundaries."

The group, known as the Israeli-Palestinian Environment and Nature Protection Secretariat, is the brainchild of Yossi Leshem, former executive director of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI).

Leshem said the project, which the Dutch government is helping to finance, is aimed at bringing people together and creating a better understanding through love of nature.

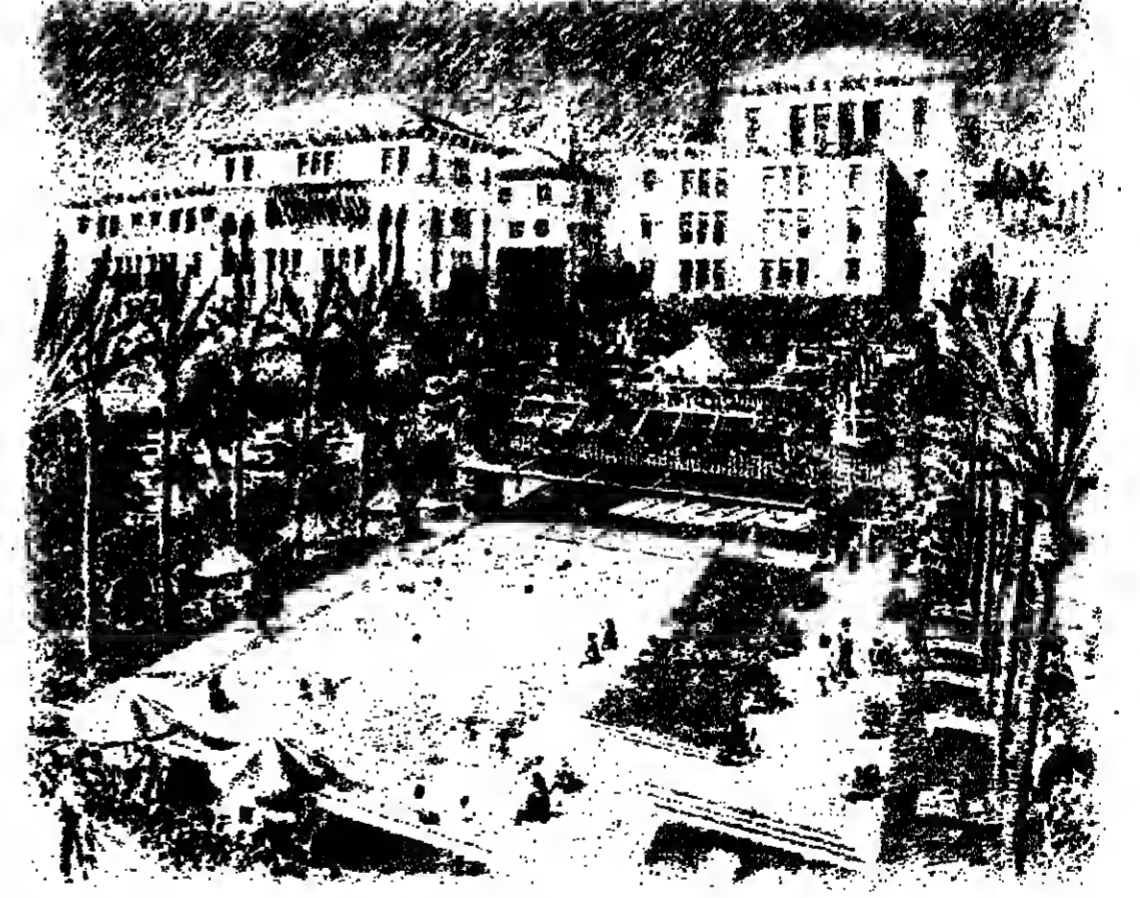
"The idea was born after I learned that Dr. Yair Hirschfeld, one of the architects of the Oslo Accords, was establishing an Israeli-Palestinian Economic Cooperation Foundation," said Leshem, who now lectures at Tel Aviv University while continuing to play an active role in SPNI.

"I suggested that the environment is also an economic issue and that we could organize outings for Palestinian and Israeli kids, take them on hikes and into the nature."

Continued on Page 2

## THE SEA, THE AMAZING VIEW, THE INCOMPARABLE JAFFA

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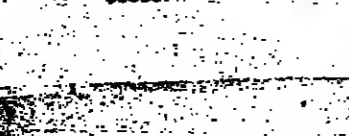
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Continued on Page 2

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IN TOMORROW'S JERUSALEM POST



The Jerusalem Post

### FATHER

10-14	10-14
15-19	15-19
20-24	20-24
25-29	25-29
30-34	30-34
35-39	35-39
40-44	40-44
45-49	45-49
50-54	50-54
55-59	55-59
60-64	60-64
65-69	65-69
70-74	70-74
75-79	75-79
80-84	80-84
85-89	85-89
90-94	90-94
95-99	95-99
100-104	100-104

Partly cloudy with... from time to time.

### AROUND THE WORLD

LOW	HIGH
10-14	10-14
15-19	15-19
20-24	20-24
25-29	25-29
30-34	30-34
35-39	35-39
40-44	40-44
45-49	45-49
50-54	50-54
55-59	55-59
60-64	60-64
65-69	65-69
70-74	70-74
75-79	75-79
80-84	80-84
85-89	85-89
90-94	90-94
95-99	95-99
100-104	100-104

### Winning cards

yesterday's daily drawing, the winning cards were eight of spades, nine of hearts, and ten of diamonds.

### Proposes rise on bill

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It is a pity to cause a rift in a party over an issue which will not exist in another 12 months," Lubotzky said.

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# US Senator calls for suspension of aid to PA

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - Senator Arlen Specter is calling for US aid to the Palestinians to be suspended until the administration determines whether the Palestinian Authority is complying with its commitment to fight terrorism. Under US law and an amendment Specter authored in 1995, the administration's \$500 million, five-year pledge for assistance is conditioned on its certifying that the PA is complying with its commitments under the Oslo accord. In a letter to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Specter said that in light of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's charge that Arafat gave a "green light" to terrorist attacks, "it is very important" for the US to determine whether that is true. Specter requested a prompt response so that it could be considered when the foreign aid bill is taken up by the appropriations subcommittee on which he sits. "My own view is his [Arafat's] performance is borderline and we've given him the benefit of the doubt because we don't want to rock the boat," Specter said.

# Dagan: Terrorists may strike soon

By LIAT COLLINS and STEVE RODAN

Terrorists might strike again soon, Maj.-Gen. (res.) Meir Dagan, the prime minister's adviser on counterterrorism, warned at a briefing yesterday. He called for increased public alert against attempts to plant bombs or stage other attacks. Dagan said the Palestinian Authority and its Islamic opposition plan to escalate the violence to coincide with next week's Land Day, the anniversary of 1976 clashes between Israeli Arabs and police in which six people were killed. But Dagan stressed that he does not have concrete information of a terrorist plot to attack Israel. "If there was such concrete information, I wouldn't be here," he said. "We would be working on this." Meanwhile, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday that the "ground is more fertile for attacks," but security forces are prepared. Asked about the possibility a

new intifada now that the Palestinians are armed, he told reporters: "Armed Palestinians is not intifada. It's war. Intifada is something else." Most of the meeting revolved around the question of whether or not Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat had given terror groups a green light for violence. Labor Party leader Shimon Peres was particularly persistent in raising the issue. According to an official briefing, Brig.-Gen. Amos Gilad, head of Military Intelligence's Research Division, told the committee that Israel has "no clear-cut evidence or information that Arafat had given the green light for terror, but his style, words, and body language were understood by terror groups to have given them the go-ahead." Peres said it is important to know whether the green light was given, because the basic principle behind the Oslo Accords is that differences of opinion would be solved without violence. Gilad said Jibril Rajoub, head of Palestinian Preventive

Security, had sent out a message that Fatah must carry out violent activities to protest Har Homa. "There is no doubt he gave the green light to violence and made sure activities would take place in Hebron." Gilad said no group had claimed responsibility for the Tel Aviv attack because it could complicate matters with and for Arafat. (It was reported in the local media, including *The Jerusalem Post*, that Hamas claimed responsibility for the bombing in a phone call to Channel 1.) Gilad said extremist feelings are running very high among the Fatah leadership on the ground. Shabak told the committee said there are no concrete warnings of future attack, but they are likely. He said the situation could be changed "by dialogue at a high level." He also said that during the Hebron rioting over the weekend the Palestinians were quick to get the youths out on the street to protest Har Homa but also quick to calm them down before it got out of hand.

# Clashes continue in territories

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and HERB KEINON

Pierce clashes between Palestinians and IDF troops broke out in Bethlehem, Hebron, and other areas in the West Bank yesterday for the sixth straight day. One border policeman and an IDF soldier were lightly wounded in yesterday's clashes, the IDF Spokesman said last night. The Border Police officer was hit by stones in Hebron and the IDF soldier was stoned in Bethlehem. Shortly after declaring Rachel's Tomb open to worshippers at noon, the IDF was forced to evacuate them, after Palestinian youths, mainly from Bethlehem University, started throwing stones and bottles at troops posted nearby. Soldiers fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse the rioters, the IDF Spokesman said, adding there were no injuries to the troops. Palestinians claimed that 27 were injured in the rioting, some from the rubber bullets. Classes at Bethlehem University ended at noon with a call by the student council for all students to join a rally and march to Rachel's Tomb, which had just been

reopened. Approaching the shrine, the students started pelting soldiers with rocks and the IDF quickly ordered worshippers to leave the area. The clashes continued for several hours. Col. Eliezer, commander of the Bethlehem area, warned yesterday the IDF would deal with violent protests more forcefully if need be. Speaking to reporters dozens of Palestinian youths were throwing rocks at the soldiers guarding Rachel's Tomb. Eliezer said the Palestinian forces were not doing all they could to stop the rioters. He said some 400 students were involved in yesterday's confrontation. His demands to the Palestinian Authority to take a more forceful hand in putting down the protests have had to go through the DCO office, he said, since he has been unable to set up a meeting with his Palestinian counterpart. "We are well prepared with a variety of different means," Eliezer said, refusing to spell out what weaponry the IDF has brought to the scene. He said that so far the IDF has reacted with a great deal of restraint. The IDF Spokesman said calm was restored to the area around Rachel's Tomb by evening. In Hebron, meanwhile, stores of Palestinians also pelted IDF troops with rocks and soldiers responded by firing rubber bullets into the crowd. The rioting, said Hebron Jewish community spokesman Noam Arnon, did not take place near the Jewish section. "It appears that the Palestinian Police is finally doing something," he said. Yesterday afternoon an Arab driver was lightly injured near the Hussein near Bethlehem after his car was stoned, the IDF Spokesman announced. He was treated by IDF medics at the scene. Outside nearby Beit Salm, IDF troops and Palestinian policemen dispersed a group of youths stoning vehicles on the road to Herods. Later in the afternoon, a Border Police patrol arrested three Palestinian youths who were throwing stones at cars near the A-Ram junction in northern Jerusalem for the second day. No injuries or damage were reported. Shortly afterward city police arrested three other Palestinian youths who were throwing stones near the Western Wall. A firebomb was hurled at IDF troops on the Hahlosh bypass road last night, the IDF Spokesman said. There were no injuries or damage.

# Djerejian: Arafat must stop terror in word, deed

By STEVE RODAN

Palestinian Authority chief Yasser Arafat cannot continue peace negotiations while refusing to fight Palestinian terrorists intent on attacking Israel, a former senior US official said last night. Edward Djerejian, US assistant secretary of state in the Bush administration, told *The Jerusalem Post* that Arafat must "assume all the responsibility on his part both in word and deed in preventing terrorism on the ground and make the 100 percent effort that the US is talking about." "Certainly, the Palestinian leadership can't have it both ways," Djerejian, who now directs the James Baker Institute of Public Policy at Rice University, said. "It cannot not live up to its obligations to prevent terrorism and still at the same time pursue the peace process. There has to be a total living up to that commitment." Djerejian, who is in Israel to attend conferences at Tel Aviv University and at the International

Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism, called on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to refrain from changing the current situation in the territories and Jerusalem, particularly the construction of Har Homa, and begin negotiations on final status issues with the Palestinians. He warned that without progress in talks with the Palestinians "there will be a sharp deterioration in the situation." He said that Arafat and Netanyahu have to decide whether the recently signed Hebron accord is the end of the peace process, followed by violence, or a gateway to final status issues such as borders, Jerusalem, settlements and Palestinian refugees. "This is a truly, very fragile crossroads in the Palestinian negotiations," he said. The former assistant secretary of state said despite the current tension, Arafat remains bound to the peace process. "I don't think that Arafat thinks or feels that he has any option but to pursue the peace process," he said. "He has much to gain and everything to lose."



**Arafat visits Bangladesh**  
Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat (center) is flanked by Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (right) and President Shahabuddin Ahmed (left) upon his arrival in Dhaka from Sri Lanka yesterday. He will attend today's celebrations marking the 26th anniversary of the country's independence. (Reuters)

# PA blocks students from going to Joseph's Tomb

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Palestinian Police last night prevented a group of yeshiva students returning to Joseph's Tomb from entering Nablus. According to Yehuda Lieberman, who heads a Jewish group called "The Nablus Command," the IDF had said it would allow a small group of students to return to Joseph's Tomb yesterday afternoon. Lieberman said, however, that when the bus transporting some 30 students, accompanied by IDF jeeps, reached the entrance to Nablus, the Palestinians refused to let it through. The bus was forced to turn back, but left a small group of yeshiva students in a van, surrounded by IDF troops, at the entrance to the city. At this point OC Judea and Samaria Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ophir was asked to intervene, he said. Ten days ago, fearing an eruption of violence as bulldozers started work on Har Homa, the IDF ordered the closure of Joseph's Tomb, demanding that yeshiva students from the Old Yosef Hai yeshiva and all worshippers and visitors leave the area. Lieberman said that after a meeting with OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan last night, Ophir ordered all Israelis and yeshiva students to leave the entrance to Nablus, declaring it a closed military zone. Late last night, the IDF Spokesman confirmed that Palestinian Police prevented a bus from entering Joseph's Tomb, stating that their reason for doing so was tension in the area and their belief that lives would be endangered.

# Sharon hears Hebron settlers' complaints

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon paid a surprise visit to Hebron and Kiryat Arba yesterday afternoon. At Tel Rumeida, Sharon listened to Hebron Jewish community leaders, who informed him of the flagrant violations of the Hebron agreement by the Palestinians. According to Hebron community spokesman Noam Arnon, the issues raised included the building freeze. "We cannot build one home or even a room," said Arnon. In addition, the settlers spoke about the Palestinian Police and rioters who entered deep into the H2 areas. Arnon said the number of Palestinian policemen was also in violation of the agreement, stating that "instead of 400 there are at least 1,500." They also raised the fact that they are prevented from guarding the ancient Jewish cemetery,

where gravestones were recently desecrated. Sharon said he believes Arabs and Jews can live together in Hebron, but the Arabs must recognize that there will always be a Jewish presence there and honor the agreement, according to his spokesman Ranan Gissin. Sharon, who wrote down the objections after listening to the settlers, promised to inform the government. Also in Hebron yesterday was Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's policy planning aide David Bar-Ilan. Meanwhile, before attending the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, accompanied by OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan and OC Judea and Samaria Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ofir, visited the H2 area in Hebron and spoke with troops stationed there.

# REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

## On the streets of Bethlehem

By HERB KEINON

A Palestinian named Yasser was painstakingly placing white Jerusalem stone on the facade of a new wall protecting Rachel's Tomb yesterday, even as his compatriots were throwing bottles and rocks at IDF troops guarding the site. "What can I do, I have to eat," Yasser said, not fazed in the least by the odd spectacle - his building a wall to protect the tomb while Palestinian rioters were throwing rocks in its direction, seemingly determined to damage it. Yasser wasn't interested in talking much, nor in giving his full name. He lives in Bethlehem, and fortifying the tomb can't at this time be one of the city's favored ways of making a living. The foreman of the Palestinian work crew building the wall was more expansive. "I have 10 children," he said. "I have to feed them. That is the main thing." The foreman pointed at the scene unfolding down the street - rioters running into the street, throwing rocks, and darting to the other side for safety; tear gas falling from the sky like smoky white snakes. "I have my profession," he said, "they [the rioters] have theirs." Some profession. The image of Palestinians

throwing rocks and bottles in the direction of Rachel's tomb brought to mind Jewish cemetery desecrations in places like Poland. Obviously there are major differences, but there are also similarities; namely, where there are no Jews, attack the Jewish tombs. Pundits have been trying for days to define what is happening in Hebron and Bethlehem. Is it the beginning of what will turn into an armed revolt? Is it just the venting of steam? Is it the intifada? One thing for sure, the intifada - at least an intifada along the lines of the late 1980s - is not what has emerged in the last few days. And not only because at the end of the day it has been red-bereted Palestinian security forces who have broken up the rioting, both in Bethlehem and in Hebron. It isn't the intifada because there are no IDF troops patrolling the city to hurl rocks and concrete blocks on, no civilians cars to stone on their way to nearby settlements. For an intifada, you need Jews. Without Jews patrolling or driving through Palestinian areas, to attack them one has to go to their cities - blow up buses and cafes, kill women and injure babies. But then it becomes terror - pure and simple; something much more difficult to clothe in a romantic mantle and call intifada.

The rioting in Bethlehem yesterday lasted for some five hours, from the time Bethlehem University let its students out at 12:30 p.m. to the time when the Palestinian security forces decided to seriously stop the action at about five. For those five hours the scene was hard to place - like stumbling onto a movie set. There were angry shouts, the blast from tear-gas launchers, the ping of rocks hitting lamp posts, the pop of rubber bullets being fired, and the wail of sirens - but not sirens one hears on Israeli streets, sirens that sound foreign, from Albania, maybe Bosnia. The movie-set quality of the whole scene was due to its proximity to Jerusalem, just five minutes from Gilo. Scenes like this are not supposed to be so close - unless they are staged to film movies. The IDF has for the last few days intermittently declared Rachel's Tomb a closed military zone, but yesterday morning - for a few hours - allowed people to come to pray. When in the afternoon the IDF Spokesman said that the site was again closed, and the worshippers were removed, he was talking about two people, Haim Vaknin who is the custodian of the site, and one other man. Vaknin, who has been in charge

of the site for the last 17 years, said hardly anyone came to Rachel's tomb in the morning - neither tourists nor haredim, the site's usual clientele. There were Jewish groups who would have liked to come to the tomb to prove a point, but Vaknin asked them not to. "This isn't the right time," he said.

# ARAFAT

Continued from Page 1

But a US counterterrorism official disputed the claim and said Israeli officials might be confusing Fatah with Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council, which trains in Sudan. "There's no doubt there are terrorist groups training in Sudan, but [Fatah] isn't one of them," he said. US counterterrorism officials have "never heard any report of Fatah" training there, he said. He also stated that "there's been no indication of that kind of Sudan connection" to the World Trade Center bombing. At one of the Sudanese camps, Kadru north of Khartoum, Iranian

experts trained terrorists, including Fatah forces headed by Jaber Amer, as commanders, intelligence operatives, and bombmakers, according to the sources. A US congressional investigator with close ties to Israeli officials said Hamas and Fatah have training camps in Sudan. "They work together," he said. "Arafat has strategic ties with Turabi and he has exploited them in order to forge cooperation with Hamas." But the investigator said although he has heard of reports that Arafat knew of the World Trade Center bombing plot, and was said to have even praised the idea, he is skeptical of the veracity of the information. "I have yet to be convinced," he said. US State Department officials said the PLO has not authorized any terrorist attacks since Arafat

signed the Declaration of Principles with Israel in September 1993. One official who works on the State Department's report on global terrorism said he does not know of any Fatah bases in Sudan. In another development, Israeli officials said the Clinton administration has quietly dropped its dispute of Israel's assertion that Arafat has allowed the Islamic opposition groups to resume terrorist attacks on Israel. Hillel Kuttler contributed to this report.

**FATAH**  
Continued from Page 1

view. "It is peaceful to throw stones." However, no one at the Beit Sahur conference supported attacks inside Israel. "We are absolutely against the attacks," said Barghouti. Rifai, who is on a daily vigil near Har Homa, said, "I condemn what happened in Tel Aviv. I think this is the hardest of all bulldozers. But mad decisions by Netanyahu make Palestinians frustrated." Nevertheless, there is growing coordination and cooperation with Hamas, and Fatah called for more coordination with opposition groups. The idea is to get Hamas to work within a Fatah framework of protests. "For example, we participate with Hamas in marches," Barghouti said.

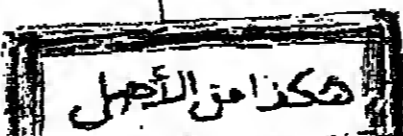
**NATURE**  
Continued from Page 1

field, and the idea took root." He said the idea is to establish a joint center, probably based in Jerusalem, with a Palestinian chairman and an Israeli director-general, create cooperative projects and establish SPNI-style field schools in the West Bank and Gaza. One project has already gotten under way, with the aid of Imad Atrash of Beit Sahur. "We intend to hold a summer camp for Israeli and Palestinian kids on the subject of nature conservation and dealing with the environment," said Leshem. The joint project is scheduled to be discussed at tomorrow's annual meeting of over 10,000 Israeli Arab schoolchildren on Mt. Carmel, under the auspices of SPNI and the Education Ministry.

Gan Harmony mourns the passing of **EDDIE SANDER** ז"ל  
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# Netanyahu, Peres deny unity government deal

By SARAH HONIG

Categorical denials that the establishment of a national unity government is imminent and that the portfolios have already been allocated were issued yesterday from both the offices of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Labor leader Shimon Peres.

The political rumor mill began furiously regarding the national unity story yesterday in the wake of a front-page report in *Yedioth Aharanot* which claimed that Netanyahu had already agreed to set up a unity coalition and that he and Peres had reached an accord whereby each of the large parties would get six portfolios in the new government, with the remaining six portfolios to stay in the hands of the present government's smaller coalition partners.

The report also claimed that Peres would be awarded the finance portfolio from Dan Meridor while Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai would lose his portfolio to Labor's Ehud Barak. Four other Likud ministers would also have to relinquish their seats around the cabinet table but Foreign

Minister David Levy would be immune from any reshuffle. Yisrael Ba'aliya would lose one of its portfolios, the Third Way would remain a cabinet portfolio and United Torah Judaism would not retain exclusive control of the Housing Ministry either, according to this scenario.

Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak was quick to issue a denial saying that "the prime minister had not decided to set up a national unity government and hence all the talk about portfolio allocation is nothing more than journalistic speculation." A denial in a similar vein later followed from Peres, who said that the latest reports "are thoroughly untrue and without any foundation whatsoever. These aren't serious reports but ludicrous fabrications."

Netanyahu also called Mordechai last night to deny the report that he would lose the Defense Ministry portfolio.

Peres left last night for Thailand, and the view in Labor is that his absence is likely to prevent a temporary halt to the national unity speculation.

Agriculture Minister Rafal Eitan,

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav and Health Minister Yehoshua Matza all came out yesterday in favor of a national unity government under certain conditions. Eitan argued that "it's good for the country to have as broad a coalition as possible, but not if it becomes a platform for internal squabbles and national paralysis."

Katsav said he would support national unity "on condition that common ground can be found on such questions as the goals for the final status talks, Jerusalem, and the Golan. If a broad coalition can function harmoniously with broad consensus, then it might be something we should give serious consideration to."

Matza, slated to be one of those who may be ejected from a broad coalition, said: "Perhaps a unity government is possible if Oslo's architects agree that we cannot do business with the two-faced Arafat."

However, the NRP came out against any talk of national unity yesterday. NRP secretary-general Zevulun Orlev issued an official statement asserting that "the results of the last elections clearly indicate that the

nation does not want Labor in power this term. The results mandated a homogenous right of center coalition... The prime minister mustn't forget who brought him to power. The NRP will consider a deal with Labor behind its back a betrayal."

Interior Minister Eli Suissa of Shas declared: "I am not bothered by this whole question of national unity because I am not threatened myself and no one will take any portfolios from Shas."

Support for national unity came from one unlikely source yesterday. Meretz MK Avraham Poraz, unlike his fellow faction members, welcomed the notion of "rescuing Netanyahu from the grip of the extreme Right and the religious elements, to which Netanyahu keeps capitulating... Otherwise he would have never sanctioned the Har Homa construction."

At its weekly meeting yesterday, however, the Meretz faction expressed its strong opposition to a unity government. Meretz called on Labor to stand together as a clear, outside alternative to "this scary government."

## NEWS

in brief

### Terrorist sentenced to another 18 years

Sa'id Badarna, serving life plus 15 years for a terror attack at the Hadera bus station two years ago, was sentenced by the Tel Aviv District Court yesterday to 18 years in prison for killing his cellmate, Badarna, 27, had been incarcerated with Naza Abu Zina, who he suspected of collaborating with authorities. In August, Badarna beat Abu Zina until he confessed. A day later the prisoner died. Badarna was charged with murder, but since he is already serving a maximum sentence, the charge was reduced to manslaughter. *Raine Marcus*

### Anti-Masada decisions praised

The Meretz Party yesterday issued a statement praising the administrators of Jerusalem's Denmark and Labor Values high schools for their decision to stop sending school trips to Masada. Meretz MK Dedi Zocker suggested observations of Lag Ba'omer should be reexamined for the same reason. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

### Pupils return from Malaysia

A group of Israeli 11th-graders returned from a 13-day visit to Malaysia, and the lessons learned from their trip to the Moslem country are to be studied in schools across the country. The pupils came from schools in Haifa, the Tiberias area, Hadera, Givatayim, and Bat Yam. A reciprocal visit by Malaysian educators is expected by the end of the year. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

## ANALYSIS

# Unity government not around the corner

By SARAH HONIG

It is axiomatic in the political arena that a national unity coalition could be personally advantageous to Labor Party leader Shimon Peres and in some ways help Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Peres would be able to enter the government as Labor's senior minister and remain so until the year 2000, no matter who is elected Labor chairman in his stead on June 3. Netanyahu would have a freer hand in charting Israel's foreign and defense policy if he did not have a hostile opposition snapping at his heels and if he could be assured of a near-national consensus.

But does this make it inevitable that the formation of a broad coalition is around the corner or even feasible? Not necessarily. The big question is whether Netanyahu and Peres can translate interests into action. Right now this is more difficult than in any national unity precedent.

With one exception, all the rest were formed at the beginning of the government's term of office, soon after elections and not after the portfolios had already been allocated. To do so in mid-term would make it necessary for Netanyahu to sack some of his ministers. He may thus get rid of foes and competitors like Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Defense Minister Yitzhak

Mordechai, but he would also have to ditch some of his most loyal supporters.

The outcry would shake the Likud to its very foundations and could be politically suicidal even for a directly elected premier. It would be equally wrenching to ask other coalition parties to yield portfolios and clout - even if they now claim to support national unity. Such unity may be a popular cause, but many of its boosters expect it not to happen or to happen at someone else's expense.

The 1967 example in which Menachem Begin entered the Levi Eshkol government without demanding portfolios is very unlikely to be repeated. Labor will exact a heavy price in ministerial appointments if Peres is to ever convince fellow Laborites to follow him into the coalition.

At this point it is highly doubtful whether he can pull this off despite the urgency inherent in the fact that June 3 is less than three months away. Labor cynics, however, say that if the spoils are lucrative enough, Peres could sway even his most ardent opponent, would-be Labor leader Ehud Barak. If the defense portfolio were offered him, Barak would find the justification to serve under Netanyahu, they say.

Likud cynics counter with the question of whether it would suit Netanyahu to build up his rival in

the next elections by placing him in a prestigious cabinet seat and allowing him to claim that Netanyahu could not hack it alone. Moreover, Netanyahu would be jeopardizing his support in the religious and right-wing parties if he is seen by them as betraying the cause. This would be tantamount to handing Barak the premiership next time around, those close to Netanyahu say.

The idea of each large party coming away with six portfolios and six being left in the hands of present coalition partners is sure to result in an unwieldy and unstable government. The small parties would be even more powerful than now, because they would become the pivotal balance in any cabinet vote. The prime minister would be left in an untenable situation in which he could not count on a cabinet majority for any move and Peres would be accused of moving into a government in which theoretically the Right has a majority.

And all this can happen only after the Bar-On Affair is over. No one knows when that will be and whether the government will emerge unscathed. The present phase may be followed by numerous petitions to the High Court, which could make it all the more difficult for Peres to talk friends and foes alike into helping him beat the June deadline.



**Most courteous MK**  
MK Ori Orr (Labor) is presented the Jerusalem Journalists Association's Itamar Ben-Avi Award by Ben-Avi's daughter, Rina Raz, in a ceremony at the Knesset yesterday. Orr was voted by parliamentary reporters "the most courteous MK." He said he hopes to persuade others both in and outside the House to follow his example and act with patience and tolerance. (Text: Lisa Collins; Photo: Isaac Harari)

# Kahalani: A-G okays Palestinian office closures

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein had determined that an unspecified number of Palestinian institutions operating in Jerusalem could be closed because political activities on behalf of the Palestinian Authority were being conducted at them.

But, Kahalani added, the attorney-general had given a legal opinion and it was up to him, as minister, to make a political decision on the issue. "I am still considering it," Kahalani told members of the Knesset Law Committee yesterday.

"There are many considerations other than the legal ones," Kahalani said.

The minister came under fire from his coalition partners. "Nothing is worse than a double message," said Rubi Rivlin (Likud). Ze'ev Begin (Likud) added: "If you try to close four institutions and then end up maybe closing two, you are indicating to the others that their activities are kosher."

Asked whether the prime minister was party to the decision, Kahalani replied: "It is up to the minister in charge." As for the affidavits presented by the PA stating there was no political activity in its institutions in Jerusalem, Kahalani said: "I believe 50% of them are untrue."

"The government took a decision on 11 March to shut down four such institutions," said MK Moshe Shalal (Labor) who requested the meeting, but it appeared that "this is a government which declares one thing and does the opposite." He said that the previous government had decided not to take action against Palestinian institutions unless it was convinced that the action could stand up in court in the event of a petition to the High Court of Justice.

Kahalani said that the Palestinians had now taken a decision to fight for Jerusalem as their capital. "We now have to fight an open war to keep Jerusalem as our undivided capital," he said. "We have drawn up a long-term plan in which we will invest huge sums." He said that "the Har Homa issue is part of the overall unified Jerusalem plan."

Kahalani warned the PLO that action would be taken against it because of its part in the current unrest. "There are PLO institutions which we have not taken action against," Kahalani said. "Now the PLO is active in the disturbances and we have to consider whether to close its institutions in Jerusalem." Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said that there was anti-Israel political activity in other parts of eastern Jerusalem too, noting the atmosphere in Arabic-language schools in the capital and the constant ferment on the Temple Mount.

# PM willing to meet Arafat

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will not object to a meeting with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, if he asks for one, but will insist the meeting focus on his obligation to fight against terrorism, sources said yesterday.

However, the sources said, no such meeting has been scheduled and no contacts to schedule one have been made by the Palestinians, despite Arafat's statement that he is ready for a meeting. "We never objected to having the meeting, it was Arafat who evaded it," one source said.

Netanyahu yesterday reiterated his proposal to move directly to final status talks, "which is the best way to deal with the really tough

problems and find the common denominator."

Speaking at a police award ceremony, he noted that "the time and effort we expend on the details of the interim agreement seem increasingly redundant, compared to the time and effort we could invest in the permanent settlement, and they're not building mutual confidence, either."

He added: "There is only one way to get out of the present crisis. The Palestinian Authority must understand that first it must do what it has undertaken to do in the agreement, and do what any authority and government which respects itself does - fight terrorism to the end."

He said the PA did fight terrorism to a considerable extent during the past year, and it can do so now.

# Police crack down on car theft

Police completed a special project to catch car thieves and retrieve stolen car parts on Monday, Judea and Samaria Police District spokesman Opher Sivan yesterday.

During Operation On Wheels, which lasted for a week, Sivan said police checked over 3,400 passengers and 2,200 vehicles. Six stolen cars were discovered, four in Judea and Samaria

and two in the Jordan Valley, he said. In addition police made 12 arrests, and four people were held for investigation.

Among those arrested, said Sivan, were a truck driver found hiding stolen car parts and a stolen car. He added police were able to contact the car's owners. Two car thieves were caught while stealing a car in Jerusalem, he said. *Margot Dudkevitch*

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PA blocks students from going to Joseph's Tomb

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Palestinian Police has prevented a group of Jewish students from returning to Joseph's Tomb in Nablus.

According to Yehuda Itzhak, who heads a Jewish group, "The Nablus Command" had said it would allow a group of students to see Joseph's Tomb yesterday afternoon. Itzhak said, however, when the bus transporting the students, accompanied by police, reached the entrance to Nablus, the Palestinians let it through. The bus was to turn back, but left a number of Jewish students in a road surrounded by IDF troops.

At this point OC Idris Samara, Maj.-Gen. Gidi was asked to intervene. The IDF troops were ordered to clear the area. The bus was ordered to turn back. The students were escorted to the entrance to Nablus. The IDF troops were ordered to clear the area.

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## NEWS

in brief

**Phosphoric acid leaks from Negev train wreck**

A freight train derailed in the Negev yesterday and two of its tank cars overturned, leaking poisonous phosphoric acid. Firefighters and railroad maintenance workers handled the leak, which was not considered dangerous to the public, since the accident occurred shortly after the 25-car-long train left the Rotem plant in Mishor Rotem, an unpopulated area. A second engine was sent to bring the 21 cars that did not derail back to the plant, and a crane was summoned to get the remaining cars and engine back on the track after the phosphoric acid leak was plugged. *Tim*

**Swiss Holocaust fund given another SFr 20m.**

Swiss banks have pledged another SFr 20 million to the Holocaust humanitarian fund, bringing the fund to SFr 285m., the Swiss Bankers Association said yesterday. The humanitarian fund, which is to benefit needy Jewish and non-Jewish victims of the Holocaust, will be administered by a seven-member Jewish-Swiss executive, which will determine the criteria for need. It is understood that special consideration will be given to survivors in Eastern Europe who have not been eligible for the German reparations programs. *Marilyn Henry*

**Israel Prize for Journalism announced**

Education and Culture Minister Zevulun Hammer yesterday announced that the Israel Prize for Journalism will be awarded this year to Shmuel Schnitzer (print), Haim Yavin (broadcasting) and David Rubinger (photography). Hammer informed all three by telephone. The awards committee noted that Schnitzer worked his way up from a beat reporter to the chief editor of *Ma'ariv*. Yavin's career has spanned nearly three decades at Israel Television, where he still serves as chief anchor of Channel 1's nightly news; and Rubinger has covered most of Israel's history as a press photographer since 1947. The prizes will be awarded at the annual ceremony at the end of Independence Day in Jerusalem. *Tim*

**Oppenheim painting discovered by accident**

A painting by Moritz Oppenheim (1800-1882), the first important Jewish painter of the modern era, was recently discovered by accident in Tel Aviv. A woman discovered the small oil painting (20 cm. x 16.5 cm.) between the pages of a book belonging to her late husband, who had fled Berlin in 1939. She brought it to Sotheby's for appraisal, thinking it might be worth several hundred dollars.

Sotheby expert David Breyer Weil said it reminded him of Oppenheim's work and, upon closer examination with a magnifying glass, discovered Oppenheim's initials on the painting. He valued it at \$40,000-\$60,000. *Tim*

**Channel 2 now on satellite**

Those with satellite dishes can now get Channel 2 via the Intelsat and Amos satellites. Focus on 11598 MHz at azimuth 236.8 degrees, 34 degrees up, and 4 degrees west. (Amos) or 11017 MHz for Intelsat. The service started Monday and the Second Television & Radio Authority says that this is an interim solution until a contract is signed with one of the other of the two satellites. *Helen Kaye*

**Israel Theater Prize finalists nominated**

The Geshet Theater's production of *Kfar* leads the list of finalists for the second Israel Theater Prize with nominations in ten categories, including Best Play, Best Playwright (Yehoshua Sobol), Best Director (Yevgeny Arty), and Best Actor (Israel Demidov), followed by *Har Lo Za*; (Unmoving Mountain) by Gilad Evron with seven, and *Ana Galacia*, by Howard Barker, *Vovomer V ayelach*, director Rina Yerishalmi's biblical epic, and *Tikkun Hatzot* (Midnight Prayer), by Rami Dahan and Amnon Levi, with five nominations each.

This year's ceremony will be at the Noga Theater in Jaffa on April 9 and will be broadcast live on Channel 1. *Helen Kaye*



Reuma Weizman stops in to see six-month-old Shani Avrahami (being held by her father Mickey), who was wounded in last Friday's Tel Aviv bombing, at Ichilov Hospital yesterday. The baby's mother, Dr. Michal Avrahami, was killed in the attack. (Dana Steiner/Israel Sun)

**3 suspects released in TA bomb probe**

By DAVID RUDGE and RAINE MARCUS

Three Israeli Arabs arrested on suspicion of having aided the Tel Aviv cafe suicide bomber were released yesterday after inquiries showed they were not involved.

The three, all residents of Umm el-Fahm, were arrested on Saturday night after a note with their names on it was found on the remains of the bomber.

Marwah Mabajneh, 45, his son Sa'ld, 20, who are in the poultry business, and Salim Jabarin, 21, a construction worker, all said they had business dealings with the brother of the bomber and also knew members of his family, which was

probably how he had the card with their names on it.

The three were remanded for nine days on Sunday by Peiah Tikva Magistrate's Court after police submitted a confidential report allegedly indicating their involvement with the bomber.

Mahajneh told the court that he had been at home and later travelled to Moshav Beit Yehoshua, while his son had been delivering chickens to Samaria at the time of the attack. Jabarin said he had been working at a construction site in Netanya. They were released after police checked their alibis.

Meanwhile, police are continuing to patrol

areas in which Arabs illegally live from the territories are known to be living. Since last Friday's attack Tel Aviv police have continually conducted spot checks for those illegally working or staying here.

Over these past two days Rehovot police have arrested 11 Arabs illegally in the city. They were employed in markets and at building sites. Three employers in Yavne and Rehovot were arrested on suspicion of illegally hiring workers.

Meanwhile, the police special operations division is preparing new plans to crack down on illegal workers and those employing them. In 1996, 1,800 criminal files were opened against such employers.

**Israel protests Ashrawi speech in Geneva**

By URIEL HELMAN

Israel has slammed the UN Commission on Human Rights for allowing Palestinian representative Hanan Ashrawi to address the group in Geneva last week.

Citing Friday's breach in protocol that allowed Ashrawi, a member of the Palestinian observer delegation, to speak from the podium, a practice reserved only for officials of "existing states," Israeli representative Yosef Lamdan said that the commission's decision to set such a precedent was regrettable in light of Friday's terrorist attack in Tel Aviv and the recent blood-libel accusation leveled against

Israel by Palestinian representative Nabil Ramlawi.

In the speech she made just hours after the terrorist attack in Tel Aviv's Apropo cafe, Ashrawi declared that Israeli bulldozers were burying the peace process. Protesting the decision that allowed Ashrawi to speak, Lamdan requested that the commission reconsider her participation in the proceedings in a letter to Miroslav Somol of the Czech Republic, chairman of the 53rd session of the UN Commission on Human Rights.

Somol, in a letter of response to Lamdan, condemned Ramlawi's recent accusation that Israeli authorities "infected by injection 300

Palestinian children with the HIV virus during the years of the intifada" and expressed his conviction that such racist and discriminatory sentiments would not be tolerated in the commission. The chairman also agreed to circulate Lamdan's letter and his own response as official documents of the commission.

Christian Solidarity representative David Litman urged Somol to follow up on his promise to act against the "mendacious and racist allegations" of the Palestinian representative.

Tensions between Israelis and Palestinians at the commission in Geneva have been high since the beginning of construction at the Har Homa site in Jerusalem.

**Parents group official: Guides call shots on school trips**

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Guides in charge of school trips who make last-minute changes in approved routes are rarely questioned about such changes, an Israel Parents Association official yesterday told the Pressler Commission, which is investigating the attack by a Jordanian soldier at Naharayim which claimed the lives of seven eighth-grade girls on March 13.

Moshe Shteinfeld, who heads the trips committee for the association, said after testifying before the commission that the guide on such trips is "the ultimate authority," and if he decides to take the pupils to a different site than that for which there is a permit, "no one will argue with him." Teachers and parents, he said, are busy dealing with the children, and rarely question such decisions.

Shteinfeld said that this was the flaw in existing rules for such trips that would allow a tragedy like that which occurred at Naharayim to happen.

"If a guide says to the group: 'There's a beautiful waterfall over there,' and wants to go to it, even though it's not on the original permit, no one will say anything. In 99.9 percent of the cases, the class will go, enjoy it, and that's the end of it. No one will check if it's allowed or not," he said. Changes in the weather might also lead to guides changing trip routes, he said.

In the case of Naharayim, Shteinfeld told the commission, police there were also not informed that the Jordanian site was off-limits, which is why no one stopped the AMIT Furst School group or dozens of others like it that visited there.

Shteinfeld said there is hardly any checking up of such trips, adding it was too bad that "only after something like this happens, does everyone wake up."

He added that he personally had never seen any Education Ministry documents barring trips to Naharayim, although he agreed that there may be confusion over which parts of the site were or were not off-limits to school trips.

Today, commission members are due to visit Beit Shemesh to continue the investigation.

Meanwhile, Maya Shmuel, the schoolgirl who was seriously wounded in the Naharayim attack, was released yesterday from Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem. Hila Ivri, also wounded in the attack, remains in Hadassah after being transferred from Poria Hospital near Tiberias.

**Na'amat: State should help pay for child-care**

By ESTHER HECHT

Unlike working mothers in the US, women here have never been able to deduct child-care expenses from their taxable income. On the contrary, recent legislation here increased working women's taxes.

To rectify the situation, Na'amat, the working women's organization, launched a campaign yesterday to get the state to carry part of working parents'

child-care costs.

In the first stage, Na'amat is proposing a change in the National Insurance Institute Law that would give parents who work outside their homes a monthly stipend for care of children up to six years of age. The stipend would be NIS 282 for the first child and NIS 141 for each additional child, in addition to any other benefits to which working parents are entitled.

According to a study prepared for Na'amat, this compensation would enable as many as 75,000 women to enter the work force, adding as much as NIS 11.3 billion to the GNP and NIS 1.1 billion to tax revenues.

A public opinion survey commissioned by Na'amat showed that 84 percent of women with children under four years of age believe the proposal would encourage more women to go out to work.

**Kostner spared death penalty**

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — A New Jersey jury has spared the life of Avi Kostner, who pleaded guilty to murdering his two children, because, he said, he could not bear his former wife's not raising them as Jews.

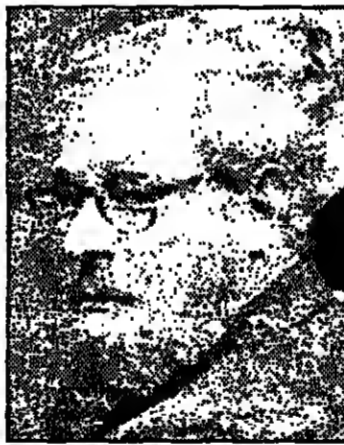
The jury, after 11 hours of deliberations over three days, on Monday night said it was deadlocked over whether to impose the death penalty.

Kostner, who faced death by lethal injection, is expected to be sentenced to life in prison on May 16.

In a dramatic courtroom appearance two weeks ago, Kostner angrily asked for the death penalty.

Kostner pleaded guilty to drugging and suffocating Geri Beth, 12, and Ryan, 10, on June 26, 1994, days before they were to move to Florida from Teaneck, New Jersey.

The jury was split between those who viewed Kostner, 52, as a vengeful man who wanted



Avi Kostner (AP)

to spite his wife and those who thought his actions resulted from an abusive childhood and a history of mental illness, according to yesterday's editions of the local newspaper, *The Bergen Record*.

Both Kostner and his ex-wife, Lynn Mison, have assailed the Family Court, where the couple

waged a 7-year custody battle. The divorce decree called for the children to worship with both parents and to make their own decision about religion when they turned 16. Mison had converted to Judaism after her marriage to Kostner in 1979, but reverted to Christianity after the couple separated in 1986.

Chronically unemployed and once referred to as a "shleht schnorrer," Kostner suffered from decades of mental illness. Nonetheless, he was active in the local Orthodox community.

Kostner also was well-versed in Jewish tradition and history, which he invoked in an agitated statement to the court during the penalty phase of his trial.

"I am not the first father in history to kill his children to prevent conversion," he said. "I could not allow their Jewish souls to be cut off from Judaism. It is within Jewish history, during the Crusades, the Inquisition — fathers killed their own children to prevent them from being converted."

**Wingate memorial set for today**

By DAVID RUDGE

The annual memorial service to mark the anniversary of the death of Orde Wingate, the British officer who helped lay the foundations for the formation of the IDF, is to be held today, for the first time, at Yemin Orde, the youth village on Mt. Carmel which is named after him.

Wingate, a devout Christian, was a fearless fighter and renowned military tactician, who fervently believed in the return of Jews to their historic homeland and the rebirth of the State of Israel.

"Maj.-Gen. Orde Wingate, who died in a plane crash in Burma in 1944, was known as 'The Friend' of Israel and was in fact one of the founding fathers of what today is the IDF," said Dr. Chaim Peri,



Orde Wingate

director of Yemin Orde. He noted that part of the educational curriculum at the village, which was last year presented with

the prime minister's "Defender of the Child" award, is dedicated to Wingate's heritage.

More than 1,000 people, including members of the Jewish War Veterans of the US, British and Commonwealth war veterans, IDF officers and soldiers, the military attaches of several countries, government officials, and children from the youth village, are to take part in the memorial.

A letter sent by late British prime minister Winston Churchill to Wingate's widow Lorna to mark the official opening of Yemin Orde in 1953 will be read out during the ceremony.

Part of Churchill's letter reads: "I am delighted to know that there stands on Mt. Carmel a monument to the friendship which should always unite Great Britain and Israel."

**C'tee presses for reparations for Bulgarian Jewish survivors**

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee chairwoman Naomi Blumenthal yesterday called on the German government to amend the criteria for awarding reparations to Holocaust survivors to include those who lived in Nazi-created ghettos that were not walled in.

Blumenthal made the demand to amend the "absurd" situation after hearing from survivors from Bulgaria who said they had been denied reparations because their ghettos were not enclosed by walls.

Blumenthal said she would appeal to Prime Minister Eytan Ben-Zur and Foreign Minister David Levy to pressure the German government in this regard, and would also appeal directly to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Germany's ambassador to Israel told the committee that his government is aware of the problems within the reparations system, and said a new DM 80 million fund had been established to provide reparations to survivors from Eastern Europe, which may be able to pay survivors from Bulgaria.

Suzana Konort, a survivor from Bulgaria, said that it is imperative that something be done on their behalf, as "we have suffered enough, and we must not be seen as beggars."

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## The Lubotsky compromise

The main subject of the last cabinet meeting was not the deadlock with the Palestinians or the threat of terrorism. When the bomb went off in a Tel Aviv cafe on Friday, the cabinet was not addressing threats to Israel, but to the governing coalition of Benjamin Netanyahu. The topic was the Conversion Law that is being put forward by the religious parties.

For a long time now, the status quo on conversions has been a delicate and quirky compromise: Non-Orthodox conversions performed abroad are recognized for legal purposes here, while the same conversions performed in Israel are not. Neither side has been happy with this situation, but an uneasy peace has persisted.

This peace was destabilized when the Supreme Court ruled that the Interior Ministry did not have any legal basis for its practice of not recognizing, for legal purposes, Reform and Conservative conversions performed in Israel. The practice was not struck down by the court, but the court decision left the current practice vulnerable to legal challenge from the Reform and Conservative movements. The religious parties have since been trying to pass a law that would protect the status quo from pending legal challenges, and perhaps even push the status quo in the other direction by making it more difficult for Diaspora conversions to be recognized.

Though the cabinet approved a version of the Conversion Law at its meeting, the law should not be brought to the Knesset floor before Third Way MK Alex Lubotsky has a chance to persuade both sides to accept his compromise proposal instead.

Lubotsky's compromise is so straightforward and sensible that it renews one's faith in the ability of the political process actually to come up with solutions to problems, rather than making them worse. His proposal is for the Reform and Conservative movements to drop their court cases and for the Orthodox parties to drop their proposed legislation. That way, the status quo would be maintained exactly while a more permanent solution could be worked out.

The strange thing about this fight is that it is not so much between two political forces within Israel as between the Israeli religious parties and the leadership of Reform and Conservative Jewry in America. The pawns in this transatlantic battle of the titans are the tens of thousands of non-Jewish immigrants to Israel who would like to convert, but who are not willing or able to meet current Orthodox conversion requirements.

The battle cry of the Orthodox establishment is that an "epidemic" of non-Orthodox conversions is threatening to split the Jewish people. The Orthodox nightmare scenario is a situation in which a major portion of Diaspora Jewry is not recognized by them as Jews because they were not halachically converted, or are descendants of "non-Jews." There is certainly room for concern on this score, but the solution is not for Israeli Orthodoxy to wage a fruitless battle to delegitimize non-Orthodox Judaism in America. Even if the religious parties were to tear up the status quo and eliminate the recognition of foreign non-Orthodox conversions — an option that fortunately is not in the cards — they would not make a serious dent to what they claim to be an existential crisis for the Jewish people. The numbers of non-Orthodox conversions would continue to grow, and the split that the Orthodox fear would worsen.

The pursuit of the Conversion Law may be good politics for the religious parties, but it can only distract from, and perhaps even threaten, the pursuit of real solutions to the problem. At the end of the day, the only solution is for the major strands of Judaism to agree on a conversion process that they all can live with. This is not as impossible as it may seem from the perspective of either end of the religious spectrum. It will, however, entail compromise by both sides.

The non-Orthodox movements may have to tolerate a solution that, on the issue of conversion, does not treat their rabbis with complete equality and symmetry in comparison with their Orthodox colleagues. The Orthodox, in turn, will have to modify their current interpretation of the halachic requirements for conversion, in favor of more lenient — but equally valid — interpretations that were followed at other points in Jewish history.

The Lubotsky proposal is a reasonable one, as is a related proposal by Meretz MK Dedi Zucker to remove the nationality designation from the identity cards carried by all Israeli citizens. When asked in the Knesset about the Zucker proposal, Interior Minister Eli Suissa pledged to consider it seriously.

It makes sense to eliminate the designation from the document which is offensive to those who are against discrimination between Jews and non-Jews, and to those who believe the state has no say in determining who is a Jew. For any of these proposals to go anywhere, however, there has to be a modicum of good will, mutual respect, and recognition that all the parties share a sincere desire for what is best for the Jewish people as a whole. The place to resolve family feuds is not in the courtroom or in the legislature, but in direct discussion with open ears and the shared goal of the unity of the Jewish people in mind.



## Fit for the job

A. DAVID MARKS

In the latest development in the controversy over whether senior civil servants should submit to lie-detector tests, the High Court has given new Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein 10 days to declare either that he is ready to take the lie-detector test, or, if he isn't, to suspend its use altogether in the civil service.

The state comptroller recently came out in favor of the polygraph test, applied together with other measures, for officials exposed to classified material. To my mind, this was misguided.

The absurd fact in this case is that polygraph results have been shown to be truest when those being tested are unsophisticated individuals who don't know how the test works, and cannot "fool" it. Clearly we are not talking about such people here.

The polygraph test itself is a relatively crude tool, undermining the candidate's established competence, his earned reputation for high integrity, and the prestige already conferred on him, making all of these subservient to the test's results.

The perceived need to submit senior appointees to such testing seems to be saying, chillingly, that our society lacks faith in other time-honored and more reliable methods of determining a candidate's suitability for a given position — such as, for example, having him appear before one or more truly distinguished committees.

If, after all, we cannot manage to trust a person who is a valued "known quantity," what does this say about our wider society? Have mistrust and dishonesty become the norm? And if they

### The truth about lie-detectors

have, can such a flawed society be expected to produce persons of high integrity in the first place?

Applying the lie detector test to public servants prior to their assumption of office is tantamount to suspecting them wrongdoing. In other words, a successful test result will "clear" their good name, ridiculous as it sounds.

Reputed to be "very accurate," the lie-detector is not infallible. Indeed, results depend very largely on the skill of the person who interprets them. This means that, whatever other accompanying examinations there may be, a candidate could emerge with an undeserved stain on his character.

Whatever happened to the notion that a person is presumed innocent until proven guilty?

There are other potential problems with administering lie-detector tests to individuals who don't fit the norm — which may include those of outstanding ability, who, by definition, are "different."

In the most positive sense, such persons are in some ways "abnormal." Their level of intellectual honesty will probably be considerably higher than others'; certainly it will be more complex.

This could cause test responses to be different than anticipated. And, as noted, where lie-detector results are concerned, interpretation is all, or nearly all. Suppose the (often anonymous) tester lacks the skill to interpret correctly what he sees? What channels of appeal are there afterwards?

If polygraph testing is mandatory for senior civil service posts, why stop there? What about lie-detector tests for would-be MKs? Does anyone think their integrity is beyond doubt?

If all those wanting to run for the Knesset were compelled to take a lie-detector test to certify them as "kosher," the Israeli voter might be spared considerable anguish, since many candidates might decide to play safe and weed themselves out before they start. And the caliber of our political establishment might rise substantially.

And while we're at it, what about our Palestinian partners for peace? Could there be a better confidence-building measure, one more designed to promote mutual trust, than polygraphs all round?

If the attorney-general ultimately decides, or feels he has now been compelled, to submit himself to a lie-detector test to prove he is the man for the job, let's not restrict the test to high-ups in the civil service.

Let's institute polygraphs as a feature of every job where trust is a factor, with annual "checkups" to prevent backsliding.

The writer is a veteran management consultant.

## Coalition of the sane

YOSSI BEILIN

Friday's killing in Tel Aviv brought the political process in the region to a new low.

We look around us — at the massacre at Naharayim, at the Egyptian media — and ask ourselves: Must we go on? Can we go on?

At difficult moments like these, there are always those who condemn us for our naivete.

"We told you that there's no one to talk to," they say, "that peace here is an impossibility, in this generation, at any rate — maybe forever."

Always, at moments like these, there are those who call for stopping the talks, as if there was no greater way than this to punish the other side.

At moments like these, confronted by senseless killing, by bleeding babies, it's hard to talk logically, or say anything constructive.

All you really want to do is cry out and punch someone, and ask: What kind of "Allah akbar" wants to see a young man sent out to commit suicide in order to kill young women and maim babies?

We can cry, and we have to be angry; but these are reactions, not answers.

The answers don't lie in halting the process, because that would only signify the cessation of hope, and punish ourselves. And it wouldn't stop terrorism, which, after all, didn't begin with the peace process.

The answer is quite the opposite. It is precisely completion of the process that will deal the hard-

est blow to terror, perhaps the deathblow.

We have come a long way since 1978, when it all began at Camp David. For my generation, who saw Gamal Abdel Nasser, the Jordanian army, and Ahmed Shukeiry as villains, the Israeli flag in embassies in Cairo and Amman and an agreement with

### Instead of slowing down the pace of negotiations, we should speed it up

the PLO are realities that can scarcely be believed.

WE have come a long way from being internationally isolated, from being hated, from relying solely on American charity. Today we have ties with most countries in the world, and with organizations in the region. The economic boycott has largely been lifted.

But we are in mid-process, and things are very fragile. And even once we have a comprehensive peace with all the Arab states, things will remain fragile.

Long-standing hostility doesn't disappear with the signing of a document. It could take decades for peace to penetrate people's hearts. And the beginning is difficult. It's crucial, fateful.

It would be so easy to slide backwards, to revert to our former state of isolation, of being removed from the world, of leaning on the US, of sinking into self-righteousness, of tearing up UN resolutions, and being forced to fight a war every 10 years or so, sacrificing the best of our young.

This we must not do. So we will grit our teeth, hury our dead, heal our wounded, and demand that the Palestinian Authority put up a determined struggle against the terrorists of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad.

We must recognize that no one has a miracle cure for blind terror, and we must speed up the talks toward a final settlement between us and the Palestinians.

That settlement is attainable if both sides are willing to arrive at it. And both know the format.

Its big advantage will be determining the border between us and the Palestinians; the finality of it will do much to reduce the incentive to violence of extremists on both sides.

Instead, therefore, of severing contact, we should intensify it. Instead of slowing down the negotiations, we should speed them up.

Terror, fanaticism and dunning of the senses must not be allowed to win out. This is the time for a coalition of the sane to talk to each other and come up with ways to live a better life in this hate-filled and blood-saturated part of the world.

The writer is a contender for the Labor party leadership.

## Yes, aren't dreams lovely?

Where's peace?

A Jordanian soldier mows down seven Israeli children on a school outing. True, every society, including Israel, has its lone madmen. But there seem to be a lot of "lone madmen" over there in Jordan.

A squad of police has to shield the house of the killer's relatives from throngs of exhilarated admirers. The entire parliamentary opposition expresses warm support for the deed of mass child murder.

A suicide bomber blows up a cafe in Tel Aviv, killing and injuring civilians. News of the event is received with wild enthusiasm by thousands in rallies at Khan Yunis and Nahlus. Riots in Hebron intensify, amid chants of praise for the bomber's organization, Hamas.

Against this background, do the Israeli supporters of "peace" continue pushing the same old line? Remarkably, they do.

Yossi Beilin, architect of Oslo and a Labor contestant for prime minister, writes on this page that "it is precisely completion of the process that will deal the hardest blow to terror, perhaps the death blow."

In other words: There haven't been enough concessions. Once we give the Palestinians enough land and power, the terror and military apparatus that they're building by the day will turn into a softball club.

Zionism is a movement to reconstitute the Jewish people in Zion, the Land of Israel, not in Switzerland, Belgium, or Ohio. But this stretch of land that is the only true Jewish home happens also to be surrounded by backward, chauvinist dictatorships to whom a non-Moslem state in their midst is an existential affront.

For Zionism to work, we have to have our feet on the ground of Zion, and to be able to look clearly at the Middle Eastern reality around us. We need to see that the landscape is a harsh and stony one.

This is not a counsel of despair. Clear-sightedness includes discerning Arab moderation when it is shown by leaders like Anwar Sadat and King Hussein, and dealing with it profitably, even if the moderation stems from expediency rather than a genuine desire for accommodation.

P. DAVID HORNIK

But it also means realizing that — unpalatable though it may be — all possible evidence points to an abiding hatred of Israel among large parts of our neighbors' elite and populace, including the Palestinian Authority, and to their belief that the worst barbaric acts against Israelis are not only justified, but admirable.

IN recent years, a part of the

### But we live in a harsh and hostile region, and we'd be better off facing it

Israeli population that is the least rooted in Jewish tradition and in Zion, and the most desirous of aping American and European way of life, has become dangerously disconnected from this reality.

It is one thing to want to live by American and European values; quite another to believe one can remake the Middle East to suit them.

The previous government was largely composed of, and supported by, Israelis with this mind-set, and it performed a curious psychological trick. It decided that the locus of irrationality and brutality was its Jewish opposition, whereas the Arabs were reasonable people who just had a few grievances.

The Rabin-Peres government did not stop at projecting this supposed Arab reasonableness onto two of the worst Arab killers and torturers, Yasser Arafat and Hafez Assad — hence the Oslo agreement with the Palestinians and the talks with the Syrians — seeking fervently to transfer land to their control.

Today, rationally speaking, not a single loophole or excuse is left for those who claim that the PA is peace-oriented. The chief of staff and head of military intelligence have confirmed it.

Arafat has encouraged Hamas terror; he has stopped doing anything to thwart it; and his own security chief, Jibril Rajoub, organized the riots in Hebron. Anyone who still calls this a peace process is living in fairy-

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### FLAWED RECOMMENDATIONS

Sir — While Michael Oren's suggestion that the peace process be frozen ("Freeze the process for now," March 23) is welcomed, his subsequent recommendations are fundamentally flawed.

Mr. Oren advocates keeping the peace talks frozen until the "Palestinians eschew in writing all use of violence, or threat of violence, in negotiations," and until there is a "demonstrable crack-down on Hamas." Unfortunately, we have been there and done that. Arafat, from the September 1993 signing of the Declaration of Principles to the recent Hebron agreement, has reiterated his pledge to eschew violence. Moreover, there have been a myriad of demonstrable crack-downs on Hamas by the PA. However, neither Arafat's promises nor his demonstrations of controlling Hamas have proven effective.

Equally flawed is Mr. Oren's long-term strategy of holding Camp David-style negotiations with the participation of King Hussein, President Mubarak, and Shimon Peres. I shudder to think what the outcome of such a summit would be as the politically pliable Netanyahu faces the combined pressures from all these men to make far-reaching concessions.

Mr. Oren is wrong to think that the presence of Peres in the government would "greatly contribute to Israel's ability to withstand international pressure." It is much more likely that Peres would be the source of these pressures.

Though well-intentioned, none of Mr. Oren's suggestions will improve the current, or long-term, security problems of Israel. The reason is that the Palestinians, as a society, have not given up their desire to regain all of historic

Palestine. Over 40 percent of Palestinians favor terrorism against Israel and almost 60 percent have not given up their demand for a "right of return." That is hardly a prescription for peaceful resolution.

Finally, in an era in which the peoples of Eastern Europe are overthrowing tyrants, the Palestinians embrace Arafat. It is instructive to note that Arafat's opposition comes from those elements who do not consider him radical enough. Until the Palestinians inculcate the notion of a peaceful settlement and select a leader who pursues such a policy, a peaceful resolution of the conflict is impossible. Clearly, the present time is not propitious for such a resolution.

SHAWN PINE

Beit Yitzhak.

### IMMIGRANT DENTISTS

the thousands of desperate exam takers are not insubstantial.

Whilst aware that there is a glut of dentists in Israel, I feel it is still inhumanly unfair and against natural justice to deny even highly qualified dentists with many years of experience the right to practice. Why is it that immigrant medical physicians with 14 years of experience are exempted from their licensing exam, but not dentists,

even with 35 years of experience? A self-serving paternalistic clique of dental examiners, whose main interest is their position, irrespective of the hardship and lack of livelihood they cause, is merely a reflection of some modern Israeli attitudes to professionals among immigrants and minorities.

DR. ZE'EV BEN ARYEH

Safed.

### HANAN ASHRAWI

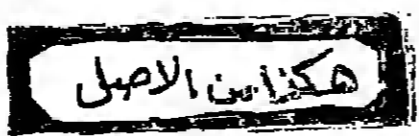
Purim outrage, that "the Israelis are mistaken in thinking that Palestinians are their policemen," Rabin, among others, was mistaken.

But she is wrong, of course. Nations at peace are indeed obligated to protect their neighbors. If the PA, of which Ms. Ashrawi is an official, really believes that it has no obligation to make good-faith efforts to prevent terrorist attacks on women,

children, and other coffee-shop patrons, may release murderers to renew their mayhem and may put off renouncing their hate of Israel "until Israel has a constitution," it may be in for a jarring surprise. It may yet have cause to look back longingly on a day when a Jewish housing project seemed a big problem.

STAN GOODMAN

Kiryat Tivon.



# Feminists advance by the Book

**A new role for Orthodox women is being forged, but rabbinic decisions are not keeping pace, Judy Weil reports**



(Line Dance) by Sara Harwan

women as teachers in specific areas of Halacha, such as the laws of family purity. Bar-Ilan University and Ohr Torah Institute's Toshiya program train and certify women as advocates for Israel's religious courts. In recent years, women have risen to increasingly important leadership positions in Orthodox synagogues, including the once male-dominated office of president.

A handful of rabbis attended a 1986 conference in Israel on women in Jewish law. The New York conference, however, attracted over 30 Orthodox rabbis; the organizers said they realized that rabbis had to be their partners in effecting change.

Shakdiel argued, however, that rabbis had too much of a forum and that the women were not prominent enough at the 1986 conference.

RABBIS WERE also criticized over the issue of agunot. Naomi Klass, a former aguna, spoke of her ex-husband's extortion and harassment.

She also recounted the story of another aguna who yielded to the rabbinical court's pressure to pay her husband \$120,000 to release her. At the Jewish divorce ceremony, however, he handed it over to one of his confederates who then took off with the money. She remains married against her will to this day.

Special rabbinical courts have been set up in the US and Israel to deal solely with the issue of agunot.

"Although we appreciate these efforts on behalf of agunot of absentee husbands," Esther Sivan of the Israel Women's Network says, "this [Israeli] court still does not answer the question of thousands of agunot chained by recalcitrant husbands."

Solving the problem may just be a question of methodology, says Rabbi Berman.

"Some aguna organizations believe that a total revocation of Torah marriage and divorce is in order, but the system is not subject to revocation. By using the smaller tools of Halacha, we don't have to throw out the baby with the bathwater."

Rabbi Dr. Noam Zohar, senior lecturer in philosophy at Bar-Ilan University, has praise for the advances made, but "I don't think compromises and patchwork will work. Rather, there's a system-wide problem of equality. We have to be committed to change across the board."

Blu Greenberg's now famous aphorism, "Where there's a rabbinic will, there's a halachic way," was widely quoted in the sessions. Yet the rabbinic will apparently is lagging far behind these women.

## GRAPEVINE



David Appel celebrates Purim - and his acquittal - with close friend Foreign Minister David Levy.

## Appel of his eye

By GREEN FAY CASHMAN

Purim has always been a good reason for a party, but Likud activist, building contractor and businessman David Appel had an additional cause for celebration - his acquittal at the end of a seven-year trial on charges of theft and fraud.

Among the thousand-plus merry-makers at Tel Aviv's Gan Oramin on Saturday night was Shas MK Aryeh Deri, whose own drawn-out trial is still in progress. Foreign Minister David Levy, Interior Minister Eli Shais, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, Likud MKs Shaul Amos, Rubi Rivlin and Silvan Shalom, former government ministers Sarah Doron and Yoram Aridor, numerous members of the legal fraternity, including Bar Association chairman Dror Hoter-Yeshai and Constitution advocate Uriel Reichman, and celebrity model Sapir Kaufman with her husband Yoav Papushado.

## The truth about lie-detectors

have... can... a... have... can... a... have... can... a...

Joan Collins (UPPA) THE DATE which author Jackie Collins chose for the launch of her new book was not entirely acceptable to her sister, actress Joan Collins, whose artist son Sasha Newly was biding an exhibition on the same night. When Joan called Jackie to change the date for her affair, Jackie absolutely refused. Her attitude may have been influenced by the title of her book - *Vendetta*.

LITERALLY FOLLOWING suit is Raquel Welch who will take over from Julie Andrews in the Broadway smash hit *Victor Victoria*. Andrews is due to quit the show in July, at which time Welch will step into both her suit and her shoes.

ALTHOUGH HIS fondness for public transport has been well publicized, MK Benny Begin still arouses curiosity when he's seen boarding or alighting from a bus. He just didn't develop a taste for cars during his brief stint as science minister.

ISRAEL'S SIXTH president Chaim Herzog, whose most recent book *Living History* has already entered its third printing in the US, while *Battles of the Bible*, a military history book he wrote together with Prof. Mordechai Gichon of Tel Aviv University, has been republished by Greenhill Books. The latter has been selected as the

More than two decades after Conservative and Reform feminists began transforming their Judaism, Orthodox women from around the world met last month to assess the strides they had made in their own quiet revolution and to chart their future.

"The time was ripe for change," says Blu Greenberg, chairwoman of the International Conference on Feminism and Orthodoxy. "By the turnout alone, which far surpassed our expectations, we understand that we tapped in to a great need."

"There were many women, many rabbis and many groups working on these issues in isolation. It was a very empowering experience for all of us to come together."

Conference participants will assess what the event accomplished at a panel discussion on Monday at Jerusalem's Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies.

Orthodox feminism may sound like an oxymoron, but the issues it addresses are of tremendous importance, from changing roles in the community to resolving the plight of agunot (women unable to obtain divorces).

The term still engenders discomfort among some women, including conference organizers. "Some of the organizers were hesitant to use 'feminism' in the title for fear that it would raise a red flag," Greenberg said after the conference. "But others among us said: 'If we can't use 'feminism' in the title, then we're still at square one. Why bother to organize a conference?'"

The title did not deter women from attending; about 1,000 - more than double the number anticipated - came from Israel, the US, Canada, England, the Netherlands, South Africa and Australia.

The most significant changes have been in the last 15 years, among them women's prayer groups, which now have thousands of members worldwide. A Queens, New York, rabbinical council voted in January to pro-

hibit women's prayer groups there in response to a local family's desire to mark their daughter's bat mitzva with a Torah reading in such a group.

The family ignored the council's ruling, citing the legitimacy other Orthodox rabbis have given women's prayer.

Orthodox rabbis in basic sympathy with the women's goals attended as conferees or speakers. Among them were activist Rabbi Avi Weiss, whom the prayer movement consults on points of Halacha, and Siem College professor Rabbi Saul Berlan, head of Edah, a modern-Orthodox think tank which was a sponsor of the conference. They argued, however, that women's prayer groups should not fight now for the right to recite those prayers long restricted to a minyan of men.

In contrast, Rabbi Irving Greenberg - known for his advocacy of pluralism and dialogue with the non-Orthodox movements - suggested that with a new generation of *poskim*, women's prayer groups might be recognized as true liturgical communities with the right to recite their prayers as a quorum.

BETTER EDUCATION is another area of change. Since Talmud study was introduced for girls in the 1970s, women's yeshivot have proliferated, among them Jerusalem's Midreshet Lindenbaum and Matan.

Alice Shalvi, head of the Israel Women's Network, said one of the more exciting aspects of the conference was how many "extremely knowledgeable women" attended, running the learning sessions.

The only point of disagreement on women's learning was that it was not emphasized enough at the conference. "I didn't come for the feminism issue," Debbie Kram, director of Boston's Maayan Institute, said. "I came for the learning, and if learning makes me a feminist, then I guess I am one."

But better education may be a dead end for women without the

## Orthodox feminism may sound like an oxymoron.

chance to serve in leadership roles, like rabbi or *posek* (halachic arbiter).

"Yet clearly," Shalvi says, "there are now women teachers, experts, who are capable of being *poskot*. That is important for Orthodox women to see, that rabbis are equalled, if not often outdone by women."

When Blu Greenberg repeated her prediction that there would soon be Orthodox women rabbis, Rabbi David Silber of Drisha, a Rabbi David's yeshiva in New York, suggested that until Orthodoxy accepts women in this role, the role of the rabbi should be creatively redefined to allow women to hold other positions of authority in the religious community.

Other rabbis urged caution to avoid hurting other gains. Shalvi took exception: "To be told not to go too far, to hear it from so-called moderates like Avi

Weiss - who have been the source of hope for this movement - is contradictory, disturbing and downright offensive."

ONE PARTICIPANT had decided not to wait. Haviva Ner-David, studying at Jerusalem's Shalom Hartman Institute, created a storm recently when she announced her plans to seek ordination from an Orthodox rabbi in Jerusalem. She has already taken upon herself the commandments of wearing tallit, tefillin and tzitzit.

"I wish her much success," says Leah Shakdiel, whose petition to the High Court of Justice won her a seat on the Yeroham Religious Council in 1986, and led to other women being appointed to coucills nationwide. "Anyone who is the first has to have a hard time." It took four years for Shakdiel to take the seat after her nomination.

Other women sidestepped the question or said her plans would not help their cause. Ner-David, who on Monday will be on the panel discussing the conference, is undaunted.

"Some of the women at the conference were skeptical, but then they didn't seem to want to be doing it themselves. I want to be, and am a spiritually, religious, guide for people. If women are doing the same studying as men, then I'm going to jump at the chance and I hope other women will join me. Someone has to want to be first."

Women have other options as well. The Drisha Institute in New York and Nishmat in Jerusalem offer programs that qualify

## PARENTING

### Girls' soccer about to kick off in Israel

By RUTH MASON

When all our efforts failed. Why is there no girls' soccer in Israel? Shlomit Toor-Nir, director, Unit for the Advancement of Women in Sports of the Sports Authority of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, says: "You've come to Israel at the right time! We are a very traditional, conservative society. Until now, soccer was considered a boys' sport, something that just wasn't for girls. Now there is an awakening on the part of girls and also on the part of FIFA, the International Football Association (soccer is known as football in Israel). They recently

seot an announcement to all national member organizations, including Israel, asking them to start leagues for women."

My feeling is that we should start with girls and then move on to women. The Ministry of Education has begun organizing a base for this in schools and community centers throughout the country. We have asked them to organize *kar-regel* games for girls. This is like soccer, but it's played indoors and with five or seven instead of 11 players. The idea is that we will find those who excel and recruit them onto municipal teams of girls' soccer. Haifa and its suburbs

already have 15 girls' *kar-regel* groups which will play in a league, beginning soon.

We are simultaneously trying to build a national girls' team within the national football organization. Our efforts in this area are just beginning.

Sports in Israel is still very male-dominated. Of those involved in competitive sports, only 22% are women as compared with a country like Norway, where women's participation is up to 40 percent.

Soccer is thought of as an extremely male sport. If we can change this image, we'll have taken a big step forward.

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BUSINESS

in brief

Prudential buys Scottish Amicable for £2.8b.

The Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society said yesterday...

New Zealand privatizes water affairs

A joint venture Franco-British company has won the first contract...

UAE replaces oil, economics ministers

The United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al...

Japan dock workers strike

Seeking better working conditions, Japan's largest dockworkers...

ECI wins \$58 million contract with BT

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

British Telecom Ltd. of Petah Tikva has received a \$58 million, three-year contract...

According to the terms of the agreement, ECI will supply BT with DACS-2 systems.

The system allows telecom operators to double the number of lines per telephone line...

ECI, which is expanding its marketing efforts in the Far East, is currently working on a deal to supply \$45 million worth of networking equipment to Chinese telecom operator Ji Tong.

Based in Petah Tikva, ECI manufactures digital telecommunications equipment for the transmission infrastructure of domestic and international telecommunications networks.

year contract with a major carrier," said Doron Inbar, the company's chief financial officer.

The firm is British Telecom's sole supplier of HDLS equipment, which works on a different part of the telephone line than the DACS-2, but also serves to increase the number of users that can be served through a pair of existing copper-wire telephone lines.

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Based in Petah Tikva, ECI manufactures digital telecommunications equipment for the transmission infrastructure of domestic and international telecommunications networks.

Row over spin-off bonuses for Bank Leumi chiefs

FM Levy demands legislation forbidding public companies from granting excessive bonuses

By DAVID HARRIS and GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Bank Leumi chairman Eitan Raff and general manager Galia Maor should refuse to accept the combined NIS 1.2 million bonuses promised them earlier this month for the spin-off deals they led involving the Africa Israel holding company, MKS representing a broad political spectrum said yesterday.

Foreign Minister David Levy said he will request in the next cabinet meeting that legislation be drafted to forbid public companies from granting excessive bonuses.

The bonuses to Raff and Maor are unacceptable, according to Knesset Finance Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism).

Former finance minister Avraham Shohat, head of the Labor faction in the committee, said that as rational and intelligent people the two should refuse to accept the money.

"Bonuses should only be paid for a prolonged period of success, not on the basis of one deal," said Silvan Shalom (Likud). "Whether they should refuse to accept the money is for the company board to decide."

Support for the payment came from Zvi Hendel (NRP), who argued the two were responsible for the sale, which brought the company NIS 455 million. "A NIS 600,000 bonus is not that great a percentage."

The sale was completed at the maximum price, reaping the highest profit to the government, which represents the shareholders. It is one of the largest transactions ever concluded.

The bank's general shareholders meeting is convening on April 1 to approve the bonuses. Bank Leumi does not expect any objections.

The major portion of the Africa-Israel sale was that of Migdal Insurance to Italian-based Assicurazioni Generali, one of Europe's largest insurers, in a deal worth more than NIS 300 million.

That deal is still shrouded in controversy, as more than 50 families are embroiled in a legal battle with Generali to be paid out on life and other insurance policies of Holocaust victims.

With Generali refusing to pay, Ravitz yesterday demanded the bank set up a fund for the families, claiming the profits from the deal should at least in part go their way.

The Generali issue is expected to be discussed by the committee early next month, but Finance Minister Dan Meridor is refusing to appear, despite Ravitz's request. According to the minister, he has no authority to act in the matter, with the sole government power belonging to Insurance Commissioner Doron Shorer. However, Shorer also maintains

he has no legal grounds to intervene. Meridor said the law also prevents him from commenting on the bonuses.

Last week the Bank of Israel decided Raff could not be appointed to head Generali in Israel, while still running a state firm.

MKS Michael Kleiner (Likud-Gesher), Avraham Herschson (Likud) and Nissim Dahan (Shas) have said they will vote against the Treasury in the finance committee until something is done to help the families.

Kleiner said yesterday he intends looking into the possibility that Raff rushed the Generali deal through in order make personal financial gain.

"At first I didn't realize why he [Raff] was so quiet about the whole deal, despite being part of an organization originally set up by the Jewish Agency," said Kleiner. "Now it's clear that standing behind this shady deal is someone who expects to gain a fat bonus."

Migdal rejects demand to dismiss managers

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The directors of Migdal Insurance yesterday rejected Supervisor of Insurance Doron Shorer's demand to dismiss managers recently indicted for creating a cartel.

The directors of Clal Insurance are expected to decide on the issue next week.

Migdal's board of directors convened yesterday at Shorer's instruction to decide on the continued employment of the managers convicted of price-fixing and other illegal activities in restraint of trade in 1991 and 1992.

Migdal board of directors expressed their full confidence in the continued employment of Migdal Group general manager Uzi Levi, Migdal deputy general manager Gideon Rosolio and Hamagan deputy general manager Amichai Harari at the end of a lengthy meeting.

But the directors did not come to a final decision on the managers' future employment with the country's largest insurance group.

"They contributed and made big contributions to the success and prosperity of the Migdal Group," said the board in an official announcement. "The board is under the opinion not to accept the supervisor of insurance's demand..."

The Italian Generali will officially gain control of Migdal from Bank Leumi at the start of April.

Shortly afterwards, on April 17, the company's general shareholders are scheduled to convene to appoint a new board of directors, who will decide on the managers' future employment.

"It is not appropriate for the existing board to make such a significant long-term decision on an issue which must be discussed by the new board," the board of directors said.

Generali is expected to support Levi's continued employment, sources close to the company said.

They said Generali acquired Migdal with Levi, who has more than 50 years of experience in the sector.

The future employment of Clal Insurance general manager Rimon Ben-Shaul will be decided at a board of directors meeting only after the board examines the legal opinions on the issue in more detail, a Clal official announced at the end of a three-hour directors meeting at which Shorer's demand was discussed.

"The directors want to examine the legal opinions in more detail; there are many aspects that must be considered," a Clal spokesman said.

Shorer could not be reached for comment.

Published reports said he intends to use his power to suspend the general managers and their deputies for three months on the basis that they are no longer credible and suitable for the positions.

The supervisor of insurance has the authority to suspend managers under section 68 of the Insurance Business Superintendence Law.



Boeing lands \$685 million deal with Air China

A cyclist glances at an Air China advertisement featuring a Boeing 747 in Beijing yesterday. Boeing has landed a \$685 million contract with Air China to buy five 777-200 jetliners in an indication that business relations have recovered since a year ago, when Beijing turned to a European rival for its aircraft purchases.

(Reuters)

israel electric חברת החשמל

The Israel Electric Corporation wishes to purchase goods/services, as detailed below:

Table with columns: TENDER, DESCRIPTION, Cost of tender documents, inc. VAT (non-returnable). Includes details for Page Party System for the Rotenberg Power Station.

Last date for submitting proposals: May 18, 1997, at 11 a.m.

CONDITIONS APPLYING TO THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS:

A. Participation in a tender is also subject to respecting the preliminary conditions, detailed in the Tender Regulations 1993, Para. 6(a) 1, 2, 3 (i.e. registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by law for businesses).

B. If a bidder fails to submit a particular document, permit or license, or any other material required by the preliminary conditions, the Electric Corporation may allow the bidder to submit the necessary document within a specific period of time as set by the Corporation.

The tender documents are available from the Import Department, 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa, Sunday to Thursday, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt demonstrating payment of the cost (non-returnable) of the documents into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips and further information are obtainable from the above address, Tel. 04-861-5530/197. The tender documents may be perused before they are purchased on Sunday to Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 noon, at the offices of the Import Department at the above address.

Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope and must be placed in Tenders Box No. 2 in the Pal-Yam building, Haifa (address as above), by the last date for submitting bids as stated above. No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tenders Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation).

The offices of the Israel Electric Corporation will be closed on the following dates: Pessah: April 24 - April 28; Yom Hazikaron: May 11; Yom He'atzma'ut: May 12; Shavuot: June 10-11.

COMPANY RESULTS

Bezeq earns record NIS 658m.

By JUDY SIEGEL and JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Bezeq earned a record NIS 658.7 million in net income last year, a 5.2% increase over 1995.

The telecommunications company's figures were released yesterday and approved in financial statements by the Bezeq board of directors.

Net income during the fourth quarter rose to NIS 194.5 million from NIS 152.2 million during the previous quarter and NIS 176 million in the same period last year.

Annual revenues totaled NIS 8.287 billion, an increase of 4.7% over 1995.

Bezeq chairman Gurion Meltzer and acting director-general Avi Hochman told the board that a substantial chunk of revenue growth was due to increased volume of activity in cellular communications, an increase in the installation of regular phone lines and the sale of peripheral equipment.

All components of revenue, they said, were harmed by the erosion of telecommunications rates due to inflation.

Yet the growth in the volume of local and international calls offset the erosion of rates and also contributed to the growth in revenues.

Clal Insurance net earnings swelled 98 percent to NIS 119.68 million last year from NIS 60.48 million in 1995.

Fourth quarter net earnings rose 22% to NIS 26.7 million from NIS 21.9 million in the same 1995 period.

Net return on equity on an annual basis reached 28.6%. The higher earnings reflected an improvement in all fields of activity. Management said the annual results were partly offset by a cartel fine of NIS 6,000.

Earnings from the general insurance sector grew 22% to NIS 87.26 million, compared with a net loss of NIS 21.94 million in the previous year.

The general insurance division reported a 73% drop in fourth quarter profit to NIS 1.02 million from NIS 3.08 million.

In the life insurance sector, profits grew 28% to NIS 183.27 million from NIS 143.11 million. Fourth quarter earnings increased 36% to NIS 55.59 million from NIS 40.81 million.

Nexus Telecommunication Systems Ltd.'s net losses decreased slightly to \$5.29 million from \$6.17 million in 1995.

Revenues rose 37% to \$77.00 million from \$56.5 million. Fourth-quarter net losses were up to \$1.43 million, compared with \$1.39 million in the same period last year. Revenues rose to \$146,000 from \$145,000.

Galit Lipkis Beck also contributed to this report.

Advertisement for 'A fax for you' by Israel Discount Bank, featuring a fax machine and the text 'All you want to know about your accounts, on your fax, within 15 minutes.'

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS table containing exchange rates for various currencies (USD, GBP, JPY, etc.) and interest rates for deposits and transfers.

Handwritten text in Arabic: 'مركز المنهج' (Center of the Method).



ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: Ticker, Last, Change. Includes AMEX and NASDAQ sections.

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

Table with columns: Ticker, Last, Change. Lists leading 100 TASE issues.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table with columns: Ticker, Last, Change. Lists international shares.

NEW YORK

Table with columns: Ticker, Last, Change. Lists New York market data.

NEW YORK STOCKS

Table with columns: Ticker, Last, Change. Lists New York stock market data.

NEW YORK COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Ticker, Last, Change. Lists New York commodity market data.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table with columns: Ticker, Last, Change. Lists spot market metals prices.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table with columns: Ticker, Last, Change. Lists New York metal futures prices.

Jerusalem Post

Parents group officials call for more school trips...

YEN DEAN COHEN

Charge of school bus routes are rarely put out such changes...

Guidance says to the group

Guidance says to the group a beautiful waterfall one would want to go to...

Tree presses for reparations or Bulgarian wish survivors

Tree presses for reparations or Bulgarian wish survivors...

Buy

Buy... keep Israel...

Key Representative Rates

Table with columns: Rate, Value, Change. Lists key representative rates.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns: Index, Last, Change. Lists New York market indexes.

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

Table with columns: Currency, Last, Change. Lists dollar crossrates.

NEW YORK COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Commodity, Last, Change. Lists New York commodities.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table with columns: Metal, Last, Change. Lists spot market metals.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table with columns: Metal, Last, Change. Lists New York metal futures.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

European markets ride out fears over rise in US rates...

WALL STREET REPORT

Dow declines on interest rate nerves...

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at \$5.00 per line...

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES, POLICE, FIRE, FIRST AID...

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Pharmacy listings for emergency services.

POLICE

Police contact information and services.

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Pharmacy listings for emergency services.

POLICE

Police contact information and services.

FIRE

Fire department contact information.

FIRST AID

First aid services and contact information.

MAGEN DAVID ADOM

Magen David Adom contact information.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Emergency services and contact information.

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Buy... keep Israel...

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Buy... keep Israel...

# SPORTS

in brief

## Good Knight for Lakers

**EAST RUTHERFORD (AP)** - Rookie Travis Knight had 18 points and 14 rebounds and the Los Angeles Lakers avoided their first three-game losing streak of the season by beating the New Jersey Nets 109-84 in Monday night's only game. The Lakers are 10-10 since Shaquille O'Neal injured his knee. The win moved them a half-game ahead of the Houston Rockets in the race for the third-best record in the Western Conference.

## FIFA plan to widen Bosman transfer rule

**ZURICH (AP)** - FIFA is set to amend its rules so that players of all nationalities - so long as they play in the European Union - can move on free transfers under the Bosman regulations. The move will bring stars such as Brazil's Ronaldo, Colombia's Faustino Asprilla and Nigeria's Nwankwo Kanu into line with players born in EU countries. Once the players are out of contract, the clubs they move to no longer have to pay a transfer fee. The rule came into existence 15 months ago after Belgian soccer player Jean-Marc Bosman successfully gained a court ruling against his club, FC Liege, that it should not receive a transfer fee because his contract had ended.

## India's Dalmiya to be new ICC chief

**NEW DELHI (Reuter)** - India's Jagmohan Dalmiya will be the next head of the International Cricket Council (ICC) for a three-year term after the retirement of Sir Clyde Walcott in June. India's cricket board chief said yesterday. Dalmiya played a key role in organizing the World Cup jointly hosted by India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka last year. He has also been aggressively promoting the idea of commercial sponsorships for cricket and taking the game to more countries. India were unanimously elected to provide the president until June 2000 at a special general meeting of the ICC on Sunday.

## Ran loses in Casablanca

**CASABLANCA, Morocco (AP)** - Marcello Craca of Germany, defeated Eyal Ran, 6-4, 6-2 yesterday in the first round of the King Hassan II Open tennis tournament. In other singles action, Gilbert Schaller (4), Austria, defeated Tamer El Sawy, Egypt 7-6(7-2), 6-3.

# Moslems protest Israeli cricketers

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)** - More than 500 Moslems burned Israeli flags and chanted "crush Israel" yesterday to protest against an Israeli cricket team playing here.

The noisy two-hour demonstration was organized by the youth wing of an Islamic party, which demanded the government send back the sportsmen, the first Israelis to ever play in this Islamic nation.

The demonstrators from the opposition Parti Agama Se-Islam held banners that read, "Get out Israelis, we hate you" and "Israelis Get Lost," and cheered their leaders who delivered anti-Israeli speeches.

Later, they marched through downtown Kuala Lumpur and delivered a protest letter at Prime Minister Mahathir Mubamad's office.

"The ruling party and Mahathir claim they are Moslems... This is a disgrace, letting Israelis... into our nation... We will fight to get them out," the party deputy president, Hadi Awang, said.

"This is only a warning to get them out. If it is not heeded by the government we will disrupt the games... We will hunt the Israelis in every nook and corner and kick them out," said another leader, Abu Bakar Chik.

About 200 riot police sat in two trucks while about 20 other policemen mingled among the demonstrators, but there was no trouble.

The Israelis played their first match on Monday, Kenya, 157-3, defeated Israel 154-8 by seven wickets in the tournament of 22 non-Test playing nations.

The 21-day tournament will allow the top three participants to



Moslem fundamentalists burn an Israeli flag to protest the presence of an Israeli cricket team in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. (Reuter)

play in a competition for the sport's top prize, the World Cup, in England in 1999.

Malaysia, a staunch supporter of the Palestinian cause, has no diplomatic relations with Israel, and bans

interaction between its citizens. Malaysia, however, allowed the cricket team, saying it wanted to show Israel that it is possible for multiracial and multi-religious societies to live in harmony.

"The government has given its approval for the visit of the team and we do not intend to revoke it," Mahathir said.

Last year, Malaysia allowed select businessmen to visit Israel to

express support for improving Israeli-Palestinian relations.

According to Reuters, Israel play Ireland today; Singapore tomorrow, the US on Saturday, and Gibraltar on Sunday.

## Hap Petah Tikva fading away

By ORI LEWIS

Maccabi Herzliya appear to have assured themselves of another season in the National League after beating Hapoel Petah Tikva 1-0 in a postponed game held over from 11 days ago.

The Herzliyans came away from the Petah Tikva municipal ground which had been waterlogged on the original match day (March 15) with a win, following a sixth-minute goal by Roman Filipchuk. Walid Bdir was at fault as he made a defensive error to allow Filipchuk free rein, and the Herzliya forward made no mistake against Sbai Hess.

The Petah Tikvians are fading badly in the league race for 3 place in Europe, and while their first-round performances kept them in the title picture, their drop from second to third place in the standings is a sign that they still have to gain much experience before they are ready to challenge for the major honors. Herzliya closed up their defense after the goal,

while Petah Tikva failed to capitalize on several opportunities to score. Bdir put the ball in the net on 11 minutes, but only after fouling Herzliya keeper Shuli Gilardi. In the second half, Avi Fletcher headed onto the crossbar and Motti Kakkon missed from a comfortable position.

Petah Tikva, whose poor performance prompted some supporters to call for coach Nir Levin's dismissal, are now in third place with 45 points from 23 matches, while Herzliya are in 12th spot with 26 points.

In a second division match held over from the same weekend and for the same reason, Hapoel Hadera and Betar Tel Aviv drew 0-0.

In other news, the national junior (under-16) side take on Yugoslavia in the first leg of their final qualifier for the European championships today in Loznica. The return leg will be held in Israel on April 16.

Tal Banin returned to action as the optional squad began its training camp for the all-important World Cup qualifier with Luxembourg on Monday.

## Lofton, Justice swap wigwams

**ATLANTA (AP)** - The Braves and Indians pulled off a major trade today in which Atlanta sent outfielders David Justice and Marquis Grissom to Cleveland for outfielder Kenoy Lofton and reliever Alan Embree.

The NL champion Braves were looking to trade the high-priced Justice to free room in their salary structure for re-signing pitchers Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine, both free agents at the end of the season. Justice, who missed nearly all of last season with a shoulder injury, will make \$12.5 million over the next two seasons.

The Indians were facing the loss of Lofton, one of the game's top leadoff hitters, at the end of this season. The center fielder already had told the team he didn't want to talk about a contract extension and he planned to file for free agency following the 1997 season.

"This very significant deal brings us arguably the game's finest leadoff hitter in Kenoy Lofton," Braves general manager John Schuerholz said.

"In addition, our bullpen is strengthened considerably by the acquisition of hard-throwing left-hander Alan Embree."

Lofton, 29, gives the Braves their best leadoff hitter since they traded Brett Butler more than a decade ago. He hit .317 with 14 homers, 67 RBIs and 17 stolen bases last season.

Grissom, also 29, led off for Atlanta the past two years and had one of his best seasons in 1996, hitting .308 with 23 homers. 74

RBIs and 28 stolen bases. However, his on-base percentage was only .349 and it was believed, he would have been better suited at a lower spot in the batting order. Justice, 30, separated a shoulder on May 15 and missed the rest of the season. However, he seemed to have no lingering effects of the injury when he returned to the lineup this spring.

Embree, 27, was "clearly a throw-in to the trade, but he does fill a need on the Braves staff. Atlanta had been seeking another left-hander to go with Kevin Rogers in the bullpen, allowing Terrell Wade to remain the fifth starter. Embree split time last season with Triple-A Buffalo, going 1-1 with a 6.39 ERA in 24 games with the Indians.

## Liverpool keep in touch with Utd

**LONDON (Reuter)** - Liverpool closed to within three points of Premier League leaders Manchester United on Monday with a controversial 2-1 win at third-placed Arsenal.

The relegation battle between Middlesbrough and Nottingham Forest ended 1-1.

The first half at Highbury was a high-speed affair with little time on the ball for either side.

Liverpool's Stan Collymore missed three decent chances while Dennis Bergkamp blazed over for Arsenal.

But five minutes into the second half Collymore was presented with an unmissable opportunity when David Seaman failed to hold a shot by Stig Inge Bjornebye.

Seaman, playing his first game after nearly two months out injured, was heavily involved in the second Liverpool goal in the 65th minute.

He was penalized for bringing down Robbie Fowler in the box - despite the Liverpool player doing his best to convince the referee that there was no contact.

Seaman then saved Fowler's poorly-struck penalty - only for Jason McAteer to bang in the rebound.

Ian Wright pulled one back 12 minutes from time but it was too late for Arsenal who stayed six points behind United from a game more.

Liverpool manager Roy Evans said he thought his side deserved to win a "very competitive game... it's a tough place to come and win," he said.

## Gretzky leads Rangers past Penguins

**NEW YORK (Reuter)** - Wayne Gretzky had a goal and an assist in what probably was his final regular-season meeting with Mario Lemieux as the New York Rangers blanked the reeling Pittsburgh Penguins 3-0 Monday.

Gretzky scored into an empty net in the final minute of the third period after setting up the first goal of the game early in the first.

Lemieux, bothered by persistent back pain and still recovering from treatment for Hodgkin's disease, has said this almost certainly will be his final year in the NHL.

"If Mario had stayed healthy he would have broken my records, especially the one where I got 92 goals in one season," said Gretzky. "He also was capable of getting more than my 162 assists."

Gretzky and Lemieux, the pre-

mier players of their era, faced each other 25 times during the regular season. Gretzky's teams went 17-7-1 and he outscored Lemieux in those games, 60 points to 38. Gretzky in 18 seasons has

EASTERN CONFERENCE						
Atlantic Division						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Philadelphia	41	21	11	93	247	190
x-New Jersey	39	20	13	91	203	165
Florida	33	24	17	83	201	179
N.Y. Rangers	35	30	9	79	239	206
Washington	29	38	8	68	185	204
Tampa Bay	28	37	7	63	194	228
N.Y. Islanders	26	36	11	61	202	215
Northeast Division						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Buffalo	38	23	11	87	216	182
Pittsburgh	34	32	7	75	251	245
Montreal	27	33	14	68	224	253
Hartford	27	35	10	64	194	225
Ottawa	24	33	15	63	200	212
Boston	24	41	9	57	212	266

Monday's results: Montreal 3, Boston 1; NY Rangers 3, Pittsburgh 0; Edmonton 5, San Jose 1; Vancouver 2, Los Angeles 2 (OT).

amassed 61 scoring records. Lemieux in 12 seasons has 13 scoring records.

Lemieux said, "I am at peace with my place in the game's history."

WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Central Division						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Dallas	44	22	6	94	228	174
Detroit	34	23	15	83	229	174
Phoenix	35	34	5	75	213	222
St. Louis	31	33	9	71	214	223
Chicago	29	32	12	70	193	187
Toronto	26	41	8	58	210	253
Pacific Division						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Columbo	45	19	9	99	248	178
Edmonton	34	33	7	75	230	221
San Jose	31	31	11	73	216	208
Calgary	31	35	8	70	198	208
Vancouver	30	39	5	65	228	250
Los Angeles	28	38	10	62	194	242
San Jose	24	42	7	55	183	243

x - clinched playoff berth



## Long Live the Kings

Muhammad Ali and George Foreman are flanked by Leon Gast (l) and David Sonnenberg, Oscar winners for best documentary feature "When We Were Kings," which depicts the Ali-Foreman 1974 championship bout in Kinshasha, Zaire, known as the "Rumble in the Jungle." Ali, now suffering from Parkinson's syndrome, recaptured the heavyweight crown which had been stripped from him for his refusal to serve in the US Army.

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**DWELLINGS**  
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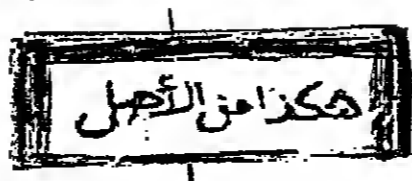
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CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Straight from winning a Grammy in New York, Russian-born Israeli pianist Yefim Bronfman returns to play with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra...



Following his success at the IPO's 60th-anniversary concert, pianist Yefim Bronfman returns.

British actors Penelope Keith and William Gaunt, makes fun of a spoilt and selfish middle-aged couple who are suddenly saddled with three mischievous grandchildren...

Isaiah is a documentary by Nizar Hassan which examines Israel's Arab minority, their feelings and their future. To them, Independence Day is a test. One schoolteacher says "Independence Day means nothing to me, but if the law requires that a flag be flown, I will be the first to do it..."

ENGLISH POETRY

HELEN KAYE

Poet Karen Alkalay-Gut will read her poems in Hebrew and English with pianist Liz Magnes, her long-time friend and collaborator...

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

\*\*\* FIERCE CREATURES \*\*\* This all-too-accurate spoof of corporate take-over culture is set in an English zoo, reunites the cast of A Fish Called Wanda...

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

A new comic miniseries by the BBC airs tonight on Channel 1, at 11. Next of Kin, starring top-notch...

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel

CHANNEL 2

15:30 Motocross from Marrakech
15:35 Body
15:40 The Muppet Show

CHANNEL 3

18:30 Cartoons
18:30 The Thirst of Years
17:15 Discussion in Arabic

CHANNEL 4

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Johnny Quest
6:50 The Morning Show

CHANNEL 5

15:30 Holy Koran
15:35 The Muppets
15:30 Adventures on the Rainbow Pond

CHANNEL 6

8:00 On War and Peace
8:30 How to Draw Cartoons
9:00 Social Sciences

CHANNEL 7

15:00 Holy Koran
15:05 The Muppets
15:30 Adventures on the Rainbow Pond

JORDAN TV

(unconfirmed)

15:00 Holy Koran
15:05 The Muppets
15:30 Adventures on the Rainbow Pond

CHANNEL 1

15:30 Holy Koran
15:05 The Muppets
15:30 Adventures on the Rainbow Pond

CHANNEL 2

15:30 Holy Koran
15:05 The Muppets
15:30 Adventures on the Rainbow Pond

CHANNEL 3

15:30 Holy Koran
15:05 The Muppets
15:30 Adventures on the Rainbow Pond

CHANNEL 4

15:30 Holy Koran
15:05 The Muppets
15:30 Adventures on the Rainbow Pond

CHANNEL 5

15:30 Holy Koran
15:05 The Muppets
15:30 Adventures on the Rainbow Pond

CHANNEL 6

15:30 Holy Koran
15:05 The Muppets
15:30 Adventures on the Rainbow Pond

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 6 columns (1-6) and 6 rows (18:30-23:00) listing TV programs like News, News, Sunset Beach, Fun on 6, etc.

(1938) - drama taking place on top of the Matterhorn in 1865. A local guide proves that a British leader is not responsible for the death of his friends. (73 mins.)

8:30 Cartoons
8:30 The Thirst of Years
8:30 The Center of Things

15:30 Holy Koran
15:05 The Muppets
15:30 Adventures on the Rainbow Pond

15:30 Holy Koran
15:05 The Muppets
15:30 Adventures on the Rainbow Pond

15:30 Holy Koran
15:05 The Muppets
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15:30 Holy Koran
15:05 The Muppets
15:30 Adventures on the Rainbow Pond

15:30 Holy Koran
15:05 The Muppets
15:30 Adventures on the Rainbow Pond

RADIO

VOICE OF MUSIC

6:08 Morning Concert
6:05 Mozart: Serenade for 13 wind instruments in B flat

15:30 Holy Koran
15:05 The Muppets
15:30 Adventures on the Rainbow Pond

15:30 Holy Koran
15:05 The Muppets
15:30 Adventures on the Rainbow Pond

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15:05 The Muppets
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15:30 Holy Koran
15:05 The Muppets
15:30 Adventures on the Rainbow Pond



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Commander has silent journey to work (7)
5 Shrub one prunes at first in thirty days, right? (7)
9 I am ready—you sound unrehearsed (9)
10 Grab top honors in setback (5)
11 One may have been disarmed by theatrical performance (7)
12 Initially thin excuse for betrayal (7)
13 Seemingly wildly moved (9)
16 Woman writing to US president (5)
17 Man starts to become rich, using cruel effort (5)
18 Reserved, but talked in favour (6,3)
21 Character's against wine (7)
22 Brief delirium tremens, taking in mineral water? That's abnormal (7)
25 Exalt as somewhat praiseworthy (5)
26 Obvious argument made by man in court (9)
27 I quit clergyman in church (7)
28 Between two girls, left an awkward decision (7)

Crossword puzzle grid with solutions provided for various words.

QUICK CROSSWORD section with ACROSS and DOWN clues and solutions.

MOVIES section listing various films like Star Wars, The Ghost and the Darkness, and others with showtimes.

# Court criticizes A-G over polygraph

By BATSHEVA TSUR

The High Court of Justice yesterday criticized Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein's decision not to undergo a polygraph test before accepting his position.

Responding to a petition from the Movement for Quality Government in Israel, the court ordered Rubinstein to announce within 10 days whether he is prepared to undergo the test or to suspend all such tests in the civil service. The court added that, if he chose the second option, he could not continue to sit on the public commission which is examining the question of polygraph

## Justice Ministry: There was no 'private arrangement'

tests. Rubinstein announced at the time of his appointment that he refused to take the test, as he opposed the idea in principle. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu then waived the test for him. However, the polygraph test continues to be mandatory for all civil servants who deal with classified material.

At an earlier hearing on the issue, the court had offered Rubinstein the same two options. Rubinstein, however, announced that he was awaiting the decision of the public commission headed by

retired Supreme Court justice Dov Levine, which is debating the necessity of the polygraph tests. Rubinstein, who has consistently opposed the test, is a member of the commission.

At yesterday's hearing, Justice Eliezer Goldberg criticized Rubinstein's reasoning, saying: "What disturbs me is that the attorney-general feels that the test interferes with civil rights. If this is so, the civil rights of all those civil servants still being required to undergo the test (until the findings of the commission are made public) are

being affected." Rubinstein has set up a "private arrangement" for himself, Justice Dalia Dorner said, and this has created a situation of inequality. "It is an intolerable situation if the head of the legal hierarchy sets up private arrangements for himself," she said.

Later yesterday, the movement decided to petition the court for an interim injunction against the government, the GSS, and Rubinstein which would prevent the use of polygraph tests in the civil service and the GSS during the next 10 days.

Alternately, the movement requested an injunction obliging Rubinstein to undergo a polygraph test.

"It is clear that the attorney-general cannot refer to the statements made by the High Court," the Justice Ministry spokesman said in response to the ruling. "But there is one point [to be clarified]: There is no 'private arrangement.' The examination of the matter was carried out by the cabinet, which decided in principle with regard to the attorney-general that, so long as nothing else has been decided, every person has the right to express his opinion regarding the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom, and to act accordingly."

**WEATHER**

Forecast: Partly cloudy, raise in temperatures.

# Two no-confidence motions defeated

By LIAT COLLINS

Two motions of no-confidence in the prime minister filed by Meretz and Hadash over the construction in Har Homa were defeated yesterday by votes of 51 to 42 after a raucous debate. The two Molelet MKs abstained.

Both Meretz leader Yossi Sarid and Hadash MK Ahmed Sa'ad said the policy of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu had created the current security situation.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza responded for the government, hampered by heckling at almost every sentence. He belittled the opposition's claim that the timing for Har Homa is not right, saying it would never be right for the Palestinians.

"The opposition should be slightly more responsible," said Matza. "We warned you when you placed the Oslo Accords on the table that you were bringing danger to our very door." Matza said the opposition had intended dividing Jerusalem, "but the people threw you out of power." He said Israel wants to continue the talks with the Palestinians, but without terror. Israel will continue to build in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria "in spite of the opposition," he added.

Matza accused the opposition of undermining the government. "In Khan Yunis and Gaza today they also heard Yossi Sarid questioning our abilities," he said. Sarid launched an attack on the prime minister based on the Likud election campaign slogan promising "a secure peace." "We will not blame Netanyahu for the terror attacks," said Sarid,

"but we can put the responsibility on him for the security and political situation."

Sarid also said that if Netanyahu's statements that Yasser Arafat gave the green light to violence are true, the premier should not have called for him to return from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. "If he encourages terror he should stay in Sri Lanka," Sarid said. "Or maybe the light was not as green as Netanyahu described it."

He accused Netanyahu of spreading panic and accusing Yitzhak Rabin of being responsible for the terror attacks which occurred during the previous government. He said the present opposition acts responsibly, with restraint.

Sarid called for immediate steps to rebuild the confidence between Israel and the Palestinians. "Without them, things will deteriorate into war," he said. "Netanyahu is the last person who is able to rehabilitate and renew."

Sa'ad also blamed Netanyahu for the deterioration in the relations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. He warned the Labor Party against attempting to join a national unity government, saying it would destroy the peace process, not further it.

The prime minister, who was not present for the debate or vote, missed criticism closer to him, when Likud MK Ruby Rivlin attacked the government for continuing to call for negotiations with the Palestinians, while at the same time saying they are responsible for the violence.

# Shahak slams Dotan parole

By LIAT COLLINS

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Annon Lipkin-Shahak yesterday told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the proposed release of embezzler Rami Dotan from military prison is a "serious mishap."

"The parole board's decision is unreasonable," he said, but added that only the High Court can overturn it. Dotan, a former air force procurement officer, was convicted of embezzling over \$10 million and is to be released after serving half his 13-year sentence.

Meanwhile, MK Yona Yahav (Labor) is demanding a parliamentary inquiry into the case. He listed

10 questions which, such a panel should look into, including why the initial investigation did not continue after Dotan made a plea bargain; why no further charges were pressed against Dotan for things discovered after the plea bargain; why Dotan is serving his sentence in a military prison; whether there are secret plea bargains involved; and whether any air force accidents were related to Dotan's actions.

In another matter, Shahak told the committee that the IDF is checking all procedures relating to the investigation of training accidents. "A change is necessary, because current procedure does not answer new needs," he said.



**Going down**  
A mountaineer prepares to demonstrate his rappelling skills yesterday from the top of the Tel Aviv Municipality, in honor of Police Day.  
(Dana Stern/Israel Sun)

# Judges reject Channel 2's request for tapes

## BAR-ON

By RAINE MARCUS

A panel of three Tel Aviv District Court judges yesterday rejected an appeal by Channel 2's news department to disclose tapes and protocols held by lawyer Dan Avi-Yitzhak from previous court hearings in the Bar-On Affair.

Avi-Yitzhak, originally MK Aryeh Deri's lawyer, before resigning in the middle of his complicated fraud trial and the Bar-On probe, had been summoned to give evidence in the affair. At first, however, he refused to give information to police, because of lawyer-client confidentiality. The confidentiality clause was lifted later by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court and Avi-Yitzhak gave evidence, but a publication ban was placed on the court protocol.

Now, say sources close to the case, not only is Deri "extremely angry" with his former lawyer, but so is Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman. Yesterday, Channel 2 lawyers Hanan Meltzer, Nava Eilon, and Misgav Nakdimon asked Tel Aviv

Magistrate's Court to lift the confidentiality clause regarding previous debates on evidence in Avi-Yitzhak's possession. Judge Dan Arbel rejected the motion, but allowed only parts of the protocol to be published. Channel 2 then appealed to the district court, asking that all details be published. Channel 2's lawyers argued that if there was a publication ban on hearings, this meant that the material discussed was important and should be made public. But Judges Menahem Ilan, Moshe Telgam, and Amos Zamir rejected the appeal, arguing that if all details were published, damage would be caused to the police investigation in the Bar-On Affair.

Meanwhile, police sources investigating the Bar-On case said that Shas spiritual leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef would be summoned for questioning. In the past there was speculation over whether Yosef would be questioned, since MK Aryeh Deri consults with him on every matter. Now it seems the police deem Ovadia's questioning essential to complete their investigation. Testimony, including that of Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, is being scrutinized by State Attorney Edna Arbel, who will decide against whom to issue indictments.

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# Bill to ban monuments to murderers passes first reading

mously passed the first reading of a bill by MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) which would ban the establishment of monuments to murderers.

The bill contains a clause under which existing monuments can be removed, including Baruch Goldstein's memorial in Kiryat Arba. Cohen cited specifically both the Goldstein monument and reports that Palestinians want to establish monuments for suicide bombers.

New science minister needed  
Dalia Itzik (Labor), chairwoman of the Knesset Science and Technology Committee, has written to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu reminding him that the Basic Law: The Government requires a minister who resigns to be replaced within three months and noting that time is running out to replace Ze'ev Begin, who resigned over the Hebron agreement.

made by April 17.

Water quality comes to fore  
Some 55 percent of Israelis do not drink tap water and 48% are not happy with the quality of drinking water. These figures were quoted yesterday by Dafna Har-Even, of the Histadrut's Consumer Protection Council, at a meeting of the Knesset Science and Technology Committee.

Costa Rican VIP visits  
Deputy President of Costa Rica Rodrigo Oreamuno Blanco visited the Knesset yesterday as the guest of Speaker Dan

Tichon. He was met with a full honor guard. He sat in on part of the Knesset plenum discussions which opened with a tribute to the Tel Aviv bombing victims. Blanco also met with Foreign

Minister David Levy. Tichon also met yesterday with US Sen. Rick Santorum, head of a 20-member APAC delegation. The two discussed the peace process.

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